GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL

1912-13.

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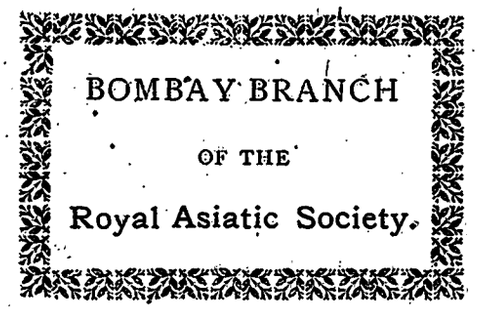

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1912-1913.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND TOURS OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF BENGAL, DURING 1912-13.

Head-quarters of Government.

On the re-constitution of the Province of Bengal on the 1st April 1912, the districts comprised in the late Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, except those in Assam proper, were transferred to Bengal, while the districts in the Patna, Tirhut, Bhagalpur, Orissa and Chota Nagpur Divisions, which formerly belonged to the Province of Bengal, were constituted into the new Province of Bihar and Orissa. Darjeeling was the head-quarters of the Government of Bengal from 9th April to 30th June, and again from 1st September to 31st October. Dacca was the seat of Government in July and August and Calcutta for the remainder of the year. His Excellency the Governor spent two periods in Dacca—the first from July 15th to August 22nd, the second from January 31st to March 3rd. He visited Chittagong from 1st to 7th August, and again from 23rd to 29th February. His Excellency also spent a few days at Barrackpore Government House in January and March 1913.

His Excellency the Governor's Tours.

2. Lord Carmichael assumed charge of the Administration of Bengal on the afternoon of the 1st of April 1912. His Excellency left Calcutta for Darjeeling on April 8th and remained there till 30th June, when he returned to Calcutta. His Excellency commenced his monsoon tour in July, visiting Khulna on the 11th and leaving the next day for Barisal where he opened the new hospital on the 13th. His Excellency left Barisal the next day, and arrived at Dacca on the 16th of July. His Excellency visited Mymensingh on the 22nd July, and after opening the Social Club left for Jamalpur on the 25th and thence returned to Dacca.

On the 1st of August, His Excellency visited Chittagong and on the 7th August Noakhali, where he opened the female dispensary. He also paid a visit to Comilla the same day, and returned to Dacca on the 9th August.

His Excellency visited Faridpur on August the 23rd, Pabna on the 25th and Rampur Boalia on the 27th, inspecting the Sara Bridge Works at Paksey on his way. From Rampur Boalia His Excellency went straight to Simla returning to Darjeeling on the 11th September. On the 5th October, His Excellency visited Kalimpong where he opened the Carmichael Road and the Farm buildings, and laid the foundation-stone of the new school building. He returned to Darjeeling on the 8th.

On his way down to Calcutta from Darjeeling His Excellency visited Jalpaiguri where he laid the foundation-stone of the King Edward Memorial Surgical Ward. His Excellency arrived at Calcutta on the 3rd of November.

In December, His Excellency paid visits to Murshidabad and Burdwan, and in January to Midnapore, where he laid the foundation stone of the new hospital.

In February 1913 His Excellency visited Dacca arriving on the 1st, and returning to Calcutta on the 16th. Leaving Calcutta again on the 20th His Excellency paid a visit to Hill Tippera, arriving at Agartala, the capital of the state, on the following day. From Agartala His Excellency went to Chittagong, where he remained until the 29th and then returned to Calcutta arriving on the 1st March 1913.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Board of Revenue.

3. The decision of the Secretary of State that the Board of Revenue should in future consist of one Member was noticed in the Report of 1911-12. During the year an Act (Bengal Act II of 1913) was passed giving effect to this arrangement.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Agricultural classes.

4. The condition of the agricultural classes was on the whole satisfactory. The outturn of the principal crops in the Presidency was good, and prices ruled high throughout the year, much to the benefit of the cultivators. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, however, there was some distress. Before the people could recover fully from the effects of the scarcity of the preceding year, their crops were damaged by an insect pest and to some extent by rats. Agricultural loans were freely distributed to enable the sufferers to tide over the period of distress, but no other form of relief was required.

Wages and Salaries.

5. Labourers also fared well, as the demand for labour, both skilled and unskilled, was good, and the rise that has taken place in wages compensated for the dearness of food-grains. But those of the middle classes who depend on small fixed incomes suffered from the rise in the prices of food and other necessaries of life.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Revenue and Cess.

6. There was an increase of Rs. 1,52,965 in the land revenue demand. The collections, both current and arrear, showed better results than in the previous year. There was a decrease of Rs. 82,008 in the current demand of road and public works cesses, mainly owing to the revision of the assessment of coal mines in Burdwan. The percentage (101·4) of collections for the province was satisfactory.

SURVEYS.

Arrangements for the control of Survey work.

7. After the administrative changes introduced on the 1st April 1912, the control of survey work in the Bengal Presidency was as a temporary measure placed under two Directors of Surveys—that in East Bengal under Major F. C. Hirst with head-quarters at Shillong and that in West Bengal under Lieutenant-Colonel Crichton with head-quarters at Hazaribagh. Lieutenant-Colonel Crichton proceeded on leave at the end of the year, and Major Hirst was placed in charge of the survey work in the whole of the Presidency of Bengal. It was decided that he should also continue to control survey work in Assam. The addition of West Bengal to Major Hirst's charge, however, made Shillong an unsuitable place for his head-quarters, which were, accordingly, removed to Calcutta. The old Bengal Drawing Office at Calcutta, including the Standard Mapping section, was relieved of all Bengal work and made over to the Government of Bihar and Orissa for its exclusive use. The Drawing Office at Shillong will henceforth do all work for Bengal and Assam, until arrangements can be made for the removal of the entire Bengal Survey Offices to Calcutta.

Constitution of the Provincial Service of the Survey of India.

8. New rules for the constitution of the Provincial Service of the Survey of India were introduced, providing for pay on a time-scale of Rs. 250 rising to Rs. 600 per mensem and for two grades on Rs. 650 and Rs. 800 per mensem, to which promotion will be given by selection. The Government of India intimated that the rules applied to officers serving in the local Survey Department, and the pay of the officers was raised accordingly.

Resettlement of the Western Duars.

9. The Western Duars Government Estate in the district of Jalpaiguri was last settled in 1889—95 under the Bhutan Duars Act of 1869 for 15 years. The present resettlement is being conducted under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act with certain restrictions, the practical effect of which is that, in the areas dealt with during the previous settlement, the terms of the leases then granted override the

provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act. The principles adopted in this resettlement are that the lands of the *jotedars* are to be assessed at the approved rates and the rents of their chukanidars are to be fixed at rates 50 per cent. in excess of those fixed for the jotedars. The rates of assessment have been approved, and for this purpose the tract has been divided into groups of parganas. Although the rates sanctioned have been most moderate in all cases, the increase of the revenue ranges between about 20 per cent. and 73 per cent. in the different groups. This is mainly due to extension of cultivation. In order, however, to mitigate hardship in cases of large enhancements of rent, the total enhancement will be divided into three equal parts, each portion coming into force at five-yearly intervals.

Survey School.

10. The Traverse Surveyors of the Survey Department in the old Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam were recruited from men who had obtained certificates from the Dacca School of Engineering and other technical schools in that province. In the beginning of 1911 the Director of Surveys notified that these men were so untrained as to be useless for his purposes. The matter was discussed at a Conference held in August 1911, and it was decided that the Dacca School of Engineering and the technical schools under the Director of Public Instruction should confine themselves to the teaching of such surveying as was required for railway purposes and for posts under Municipalities, District Boards, and the Public Works Department, and that the Director of Surveys should arrange for the teaching of such land surveying as was required for the work of the Survey and Settlement Departments. The territorial redistribution prevented definite action being taken by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government in the matter; but as Major Hirst was to remain in charge of Surveys in Assam and the Eastern districts of Bengal he was instructed to develop his proposal for the establishment of a separate survey school. He submitted a scheme to this Government in February last. Its object is to train persons as qualified Zamindari Surveyors for Court of Wards' work, district Kanungoships, Municipal Surveying, ordinary Civil Court Commissioner's work and Government Surveying generally. Special classes are also to be held for Pleaders, young Civilians, Provincial Civil Service Officers, and district Kanungoes. The opening of a survey school in the Mainamati Hills near the town of Comilla was sanctioned shortly after the close of the year as an experimental measure.

LAND RECORDS AND SETTLEMENT.

Cost of surveys and records-of-rights in permanently-settled districts.

11. In connection with a suggestion made by the Government of India for the revision of the existing arrangements for financing district surveys and records-of-rights from the Imperial revenues, the Director of Land Records, Bengal, had been asked to make a thorough examination of the estimates made and of the expenditure incurred in respect of all such operations in progress and to submit revised estimates, prepared with all possible care, of the probable total cost in each case. An exhaustive and careful report submitted by him clearly showed

that the expenditure incurred was not on the whole higher than was necessary in order to secure the accuracy without which the record would be worse than useless; but the revised estimates had not been drawn up so as to afford an adequate means of checking the expenditure from year to year and ascertaining the exact financial effects of any alteration in procedure or programme. The Directors of Land Records and Surveys were therefore asked to prepare detailed revised programmes and estimates, some of which have been received and are under consideration together with various suggestions for the improvement of the present procedure and system of accounts.

Expenditure and system of accounts in minor settlement operations.

12. The system of accounts in minor settlement operations was examined during the year by the Director of Land Records. Hitherto much time and labour have been wasted over fruitless attempts to keep separate accounts for each individual petty settlement carried out in a district. In future the operations in each district will be treated as a whole, and at the end of each financial year an account will be made up for each estate by apportioning to it its proportionate share of the expenditure on each branch of the work.

Maintenance of Land Records.

13. The question of the maintenance of land records was further discussed during the year, and a full report on the subject was submitted to the Government of *India, whose orders are awaited.*

Improvement of pay and prospects of District Kanungoes in Bengal and the amendment of the rules relating to their travelling allowance.

14. During the year it was brought to the notice of Government that the position of the Kanungoes in Bengal in respect of their pay, prospects and travelling allowance as sanctioned in 1881 was extremely unfavourable in comparison with other services of Government and required amelioration. The Governor in Council has since obtained the sanction of the Government of India to a proposal that Kanungoes in Bengal should be permitted to draw travelling allowance at the rates ordinarily admissible under the Civil Service Regulations without the restriction contained in entry No. 9 of Appendix 20 to the Civil Service Regulations. This sanction does not affect the case of Kanungoes employed in the district of Bakarganj, who are in receipt of fixed monthly travelling allowances at the rates laid down in Appendix 20 to the Civil Service Regulations.

With a view to attract a better and more efficient class of candidates to the Kanungo service, to widen the field of selection and to secure a more even flow of promotion, the Governor in Council has decided to introduce, in place of the existing grades of Rs. 50 and Rs. 75 per mensem, a time scale of pay which will lead to marked improvement in the conditions of the service. The details of the scheme are under consideration.

WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Number of Estates and general remarks.

15. During the year there were under the management of the Court, sixty-three estates of which four were released. The collections were good, the percentage on current demand being 106·1 against 103·1 in the previous year. The cost of management was for the whole province 12·1 per cent. of the current demand as in the previous year. The standard of 10 per cent. was exceeded in all the divisions except in the Presidency

Division where it was 9·8. Detailed schemes are being formulated by Commissioners in consultation with the Director of Agriculture for demonstrations of agricultural improvements in solvent estates under the advice of an officer of the Department of Agriculture. The education of the wards was attended with generally satisfactory results.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Working of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

16. The Bengal Tenancy Act worked smoothly on the whole. Although its main provisions are now fairly well-known to both landlords and tenants there are still various sections of it of which the importance has not been realized by the public. The levy of *abwabs* or illegal cesses, though still common, is being gradually restricted by the preparation of the record-of-rights.

In the year under report there was a slight decrease in the number of rent money-orders issued and in the aggregate amount remitted. Since last year the percentage of cases in which money-orders were refused by landlords rose from 21·8 to 25·1.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Acts passed.

17. During the year 1912-13, three Acts (Nos. I, II and III of 1913) were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council. One Act (No. IV of 1913) was passed a few days after the close of the year. The most important of these Acts is the Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act (Bengal Act III of 1913). Each Act is further discussed under the head "Course of Legislation," in Part II of this Report.

POLICE.

River Police scheme.

18. The River Police scheme was further extended during the year. The construction of nine floating thanas was sanctioned and the Meghna Division opened with seven river stations under an Inspector. The scheme is to be completed as quickly as possible.

Suppression of cotton gambling in Calcutta.

19. An Ordinance was passed by Government in December 1912 prohibiting cotton gambling, which had so increased as to become a public menace. Since the close of the year an Act has been passed penalizing this and other forms of public gambling.

Police Training Schools in Bengal.

20. As a result of the administrative changes only two Police Training Schools, at Rajshahi and Berhampore, were left in this Presidency. As their capacity was insufficient, it was arranged with the

Government of Bihar and Orissa and the Assam Administration that up to the beginning of January 1913 recruits from Western Bengal districts should be trained at Nathnagar and those from Eastern Bengal districts at Silchar. With effect from 1st January 1913, with the sanction of the Government of India, a combined Police Training School for 600 men was established at Sarda in the Rajshahi district, and a Constables' Training School for 300 at Dacca.

Sibpur Ghât accident.

21. On the 19th November 1912 a *dinghi* boat capsized at Sibpur Ferry Steamer ghât with the loss of 11 lives. A committee was appointed by Government to enquire into the circumstances and to suggest practical remedies for any existing defects, and improvements in the control of traffic at the landing stage have been effected.

Circle Officers to supervise panchayat and chaukidari work.

22. Mr. J. N. Gupta, I.C.S., was deputed in October 1912 to organise the system of Circle officers in the Western Bengal districts and to extend it into the districts of Eastern Bengal. Under him 20 Sub-Deputy Collectors from the general staff were appointed circle officers in seven subdivisions of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions and in six in Eastern Bengal. The Government of India were asked to sanction 40 additional appointments of Sub-Deputy Collectors temporarily for three years for the extension of the system.

Political crime.

23. Political crime continued to prevail in certain Eastern Bengal districts, notably in Dacca, and literature was disseminated inciting the murder of Europeans and the overthrow of the Government. The murder of a head constable in September 1912 was followed two months later by a bomb outrage at Midnapore.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

24. A general increase, as compared with the previous year, occurred in all classes of criminal work disposed of in 1912 by the lower Courts both in the Presidency town and in the mufassal. The increase in the disposal of original work by the Sessions Courts was slight, but appellate and revisional work increased perceptibly. There was a large increase in the number of appeals and applications for revision decided by the High Court. No special Bench was constituted under Act XIV of 1908 during the year, but a special Criminal Bench was formed to hear an appeal, pending from the previous year, against an order of the Additional Sessions Judge of Dacca, convicting 35 persons under section 121A, Indian Penal Code. The High Court set aside the conviction and sentence of 21 persons, and modified the sentences of the others.

JAILS.

Prisoners' Aid Society.

25. The Government of Bengal again took an active interest in the Prisoners' Aid Society, and decided to provide it with a certain amount of regular work.

Extension of the jurisdiction of the Calcutta High Court.

26. The decision to declare the old Alipore Jail to be the Presidency Jail, made it necessary to extend the original jurisdiction of the High Court, Calcutta, so as to include it. The Judges of the High Court were

consulted on the subject, and the necessary notification under the Indian Presidency Towns Act, 1815, has been issued since the close of the year, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India.

Reorganization of the subordinate Jail establishment.

27. The question of assimilating the rates of pay of the Jailor establishment in force in Eastern and Western Bengal engaged the attention of Government during the year, and a scheme for the reorganization of the Jailor service was submitted to the Government of India.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

28. The number of original suits instituted during 1912 in the mufassal Courts largely declined, but the total pending file shows a considerable increase. This result is due chiefly to the smaller outturn of Munsifs. A substantial increase occurred in the outturn of appellate work by the superior Courts. The pending appellate file, however, increased owing to a rise in the number of appeals instituted. The institutions in the Appellate Side of the High Court were greater than in 1911, and although there was a considerable increase in the number of cases decided, the arrears were in excess of those of the preceding year.

REGISTRATION.

Reorganization.

29. The rules relating to the appointment, leave and transfers of District and Rural Sub-Registrars in force in the eastern and western districts of the Province were co-ordinated. A revised table of registration fees for the Presidency of Bengal was issued with the sanction of the Government of India. Proposals for regrading the appointments of District Sub-Registrars and Sub-Registrars in the reconstituted province of Bengal were submitted to the Government of India.

Creation of additional temporary appointments.

30. In view of difficulties pointed out by the Accountant-General in connection with the system hitherto followed in creating appointments on the opening of experimental registration offices, it has been decided that when an experimental sub-registry office is opened, a substantive *pro tempore* appointment in grade IV will be created; a Sub-Registrar in grade V will be promoted to grade IV; a probationer will be promoted substantively *pro tempore* to grade V, and the Commissioner of the division, in which the experimental office is opened, will be asked to nominate candidates in the usual way for the appointment of a substantive *pro tempore* probationer. If the experimental office is abolished, the substantive *pro tempore* probationer will be absorbed in the vacancies due to ordinary casualties and the next vacancy in the division will not be filled.

Registrar under the Provident Insurance Societies Act, V of 1912, and the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, VI of 1912.

31. Rai Kripa Nath Dutt Bahadur, Registrar of Assurances and Joint Stock Companies, Calcutta, has been appointed Registrar under the Provident Insurance Societies Act, V of 1912, and also under the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, VI of 1912, for the Presidency.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Principles to be followed in making nominations for appointment as Municipal Commissioners and as Members of District and Local Boards.

32. To secure the representation of minorities with due regard to their importance in the community, certain principles were laid down for observance by Divisional Commissioners in making recommendations to Government for the appointment of Municipal Commissioners and members of District and Local Boards.

Revision of model by-laws under the Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884.

33. The model by-laws framed by Government were revised and circulated to the municipalities in the Province.

Control over budgets of District Funds.

34. In accordance with a suggestion made by the Decentralization Commission that District Boards should have full power to pass budgets and to make reappropriation of grants, subject only to the maintenance of a prescribed minimum balance, it was decided to relax the control exercised by the Commissioners of Divisions in this respect and to direct that their supervision should be restricted to the maintenance of a minimum balance, the sufficiency of the provision for repayment of existing loans, the appropriation of all money contributed for a specific purpose to that purpose, the observance of all legal provisions and orders of Government, and the formal correctness of the budget.

Powers of District and Local Boards in the allotment of funds and in the passing of estimates of works.

35. In consequence of the recommendation of the Decentralization Commission that District and Local Boards should have full power in allotting funds and in passing estimates, it was decided to enhance the powers of the Commissioner to sanction new works and to dispense with the necessity for the sanction of Government in all cases when the initial cost did not exceed Rs. 50,000.

Control over Local Board budget.

36. In consideration of the Decentralization Commission's recommendation that Local Boards should have the same power as District Boards in respect of their budgets, it was decided that, when the District Board was able to hand over the control of any branches of its administration to Local Boards, the transfer of funds should take the form of a lump grant fixed preferably for a term of not less than three years; the Local Board should then be at liberty to budget for the expenditure of the grant at its own discretion, subject only to the observance of specific directions as to the objects for which any portion of the grant was given, such directions not to extend beyond the allotment of funds to major heads.

Expenditure by District Boards on education.

37. The Royal Commission upon Decentralization having recommended the abolition of all orders requiring District Boards to spend a certain percentage of their ordinary income upon particular services the order prescribing 10 per cent. of their ordinary income as the minimum for expenditure on primary education was withdrawn subject to the condition that their total expenditure on education should not fall short of the amount given by Government from time to time for expenditure under these heads or of that expended in the year 1901-02 *plus* the amount of any additional grant made in that year or subsequently.

Government contribution in aid of works for the improvement of rural water-supply.

38. The system in force in Western Bengal, under which Government contributed each year to every District Board one-third of its expenditure for the preceding year upon improving the local water-supply up to a maximum of Rs. 3,000 was extended to Eastern Bengal.

Improvement of water-supply in rural areas.

39. A small informal Conference composed mainly of non-officials was convened in October at Darjeeling to formulate proposals for the improvement of rural water-supply. In a Resolution embodying the conclusions arrived at by the Conference the attention of all District Officers and District Boards was drawn to the importance of this problem. It was pointed out that District Boards could direct their efforts with greatest chance of success towards the improvement of the purity of existing sources of supply. Where tanks were the property of the District Board their reservation for drinking purposes was simple, but in the case of private tanks, acquisition on an extensive scale was beyond their resources. It was, therefore, suggested that Boards should endeavour to obtain control over such tanks by an agreement whereby the owner, in return for a contribution towards the cost of re-excavation or of maintenance, would consent to the enforcement by the District Board through its own agency of definite restrictions on the pollution of the tanks. The expediency of utilizing Union Committees was pointed out and the levy of a small rate by such Committees in order to provide an agency to guard such tanks, as have been cleaned and reserved was specially commended. Attention was drawn to the necessity of obtaining a knowledge of existing facts, in the shape of an up-to-date record of the conditions of water-supply in each village. Government offered to bear where necessary the cost of the appointment, for one year, of a sub-overseer on Rs. 40 a month for each subdivision to visit every village and to report on the real condition of the water-supply.

MARINE.

Calcutta Port Trust.

40. The income of the Calcutta Port Trust was Rs. 1,42,46,317 and the expenditure Rs. 1,47,00,316. The deficit is largely due to additional charges on account of interest and Sinking Fund payable on loans raised from Government and the public to carry out Capital Works. The Commissioners were authorized during the year to raise a debenture loan of Rs. 50 lakhs bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent. per annum repayable in 30 years. The expenditure on Capital Works was Rs. 39,90,856. The Capital debt stood at Rs. 87,421,287, against which the Commissioners hold properties valued at Rs. 11,37,37,911.

One thousand seven hundred and thirty vessels with a gross tonnage of 7,074,530 entered and 1,718 vessels with a gross tonnage of 7,019,697 left the port.

Chittagong Port Trust.

41. The receipts of the Chittagong Port Fund amounted to Rs. 2,29,361 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,79,758. The capital expenditure amounted to Rs. 13,084.

Eight hundred and eleven vessels with a nett registered tonnage of 406,038 entered and 820 vessels with a nett tonnage of 409,277 left the port.

Smoke-nuisances Commission.

42. The provisions of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Act, 1905, were extended to all remaining areas within the local limits of the Tollygunge Garden Reach and South Suburban Municipalities in the district of

24-Parganas. The total area under the jurisdiction of the Commission was thus raised to 64 square miles.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

The Bengal Provincial Agricultural Association.

43. The Agricultural Association of the late Province of Bengal was constituted to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of zamindars and merchants interested in the improvement of agricultural methods. In the late Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam there was no such Central Association though there were District Associations which worked in like co-operation with the Agricultural Department. To meet the requirements of the Bengal Presidency the Bengal Provincial Agricultural Association was therefore reconstituted during the year. It has a meeting room and a considerable library in the Writers' Buildings, Calcutta; its President is the Member of Government in charge of the Revenue Department, and its Secretary the Director of Agriculture, Bengal.

Mixed farming.

44. The improvement of cattle-breeding engaged the serious attention of Government and of the Agricultural Department, and the establishment of a cattle and cultivation farm at Rangpur was sanctioned, with the object of improving the breed of indigenous cattle and demonstrating the possibility of profits from mixed farming.

Improvement of the Jute Forecast.

45. In the last year's report mention was made of an experiment by which *panchayats* were to give details as to the areas under jute in each union. These figures were not available in time for the final forecast for 1912; but the results of the *panchayats'* enquiries were such as to encourage the continuance of the experiment. A second trial was made under more favourable conditions, and the figures obtained were generally accepted for the forecasts of 1913.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Societies. (Rules under the Act.)

46. Owing to the passing of the new Co-operative Societies Act, 1912 (II of 1912), and the reconstitution of the Province, new rules under section 43 of the Act were framed for the Presidency of Bengal. The rules have the force of law, and they are applicable to co-operative societies of all kinds.

Relation of District officers to Co-operative movement.

47. In the year 1911 the Government of Bengal issued a circular indicating how the District Officer could, as a sympathetic consultant, give most valuable help towards the development of the Co-operative movement and shewing how local officers could assist it, particularly by

freely consulting the Registrar as the officer responsible for its control. The system outlined in that circular, hitherto in force only in the Western Bengal districts, was extended to the whole Presidency.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and crops.

48. The rainfall during the year was on the whole satisfactory with the exception of the heavy rain in Eastern Bengal during April. The outturn of the different *bhadoi* crops was on the whole fair. The harvests of jute, winter rice, and sugarcane were good. Conditions were not favourable for *rabi* crops, the yield being only 83 per cent. of the normal.

FORESTS.

Redistribution of the Forest Cadres between Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam.

49. On account of the territorial changes which came into force on the 1st April 1912 it became necessary to redistribute the Forest staff between the three provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam. The arrangements sanctioned by the Government of India at the close of the year gave to Bengal, with effect from 1st April 1912, a permanent staff (excluding the Conservator, supernumeraries and probationers) of 11 officers of the Imperial Forest Service and 7 and 446 officers, respectively, of the Provincial and Subordinate Forest Services.

Measures for the destruction of man-eating tigers in the Sundarbans.

50. The concession, noticed in last year's report, to tiger-hunters to shoot Chital stags for food was found in no way to promote the extermination of tigers and was therefore withdrawn. To encourage Indian *shikaries* and make it easier for them to get the rewards for killing tigers, the Subdivisional Officers of Basirhat, Diamond Harbour, Satkhira, Bagerhat and Khulna in the 24-Parganas and Khulna districts have been authorized to grant such rewards.

Exploitation of Forest products.

51. Considerable progress was made in the systematic extraction of marketable forest products, by the grant of concessions to private companies with the necessary resources for opening up areas at present inaccessible and for providing machinery and improved means of transport, such as tram and wire-rope ways. Messrs. Burn & Co., Ld., were granted concessions for the extraction of timber, firewood and bamboos from certain areas in the Darjeeling, Tista and Kurseong Forest divisions, and of timber from the Buxa Forest Division.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Review of the year's work.

52. The jute industry was extremely prosperous, prices ruled high and mills worked full-time. The quantity of tea manufactured again increased and the value of the foreign exports by sea was the highest on record. The revival of the coal industry continued; 18 new mines were opened and the total output was greater than that of 1911 by 447,555 tons. The value of the iron ore produced was almost double that of the previous year. The sugar industry, however, suffered a relapse after the exceptional prosperity of 1911, and the silk industry continued to decline.

53. In 1911 Government sanctioned a yearly grant of Rs. 4,000 for five years towards the research work of the Indian Tea Association. During the year under report the Association represented that they were establishing at Tocklai, in Assam, a new and more important experimental station, with a fully equipped laboratory for chemical and field investigations, and that towards the estimated capital cost of Rs. 75,000, they were prepared to devote their whole reserve fund of Rs. 60,000. Towards this project the Bengal Government have sanctioned a special grant of Rs. 5,000, and the Assam Administration has contributed the balance of Rs. 10,000.

Experimental station at Tocklai in Assam.

WORKING OF THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT.

54. At the instance of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal, all jute presses and ginning factories, which work only at stated seasons, were exempted from those provisions of the Indian Factories Act, XII of 1911, which prohibit employment on Sunday.

Exemption of a certain class of factories from the operation of the Indian Factories Act, XII of 1911.

55. The Government of India were moved to place the appointment of a whole-time Certifying Surgeon for Factories in the immediate neighbourhood of Calcutta on a permanent basis, but they sanctioned only the temporary retention of the appointment pending orders from the Secretary of State as to the arrangements necessary throughout India for the certification of children under the Indian Factories Act, XII of 1911.

Certifying Surgeon of Factories, Bengal.

TRADE.

56. The value of the sea-borne trade (merchandise only) of the Presidency of Bengal was Rs. 162·35 crores against Rs. 143·84 crores in 1911-12, an improvement of nearly 12·9 per cent. Of this total, the share of Calcutta was Rs. 155·95 crores against Rs. 137·85 crores in the preceding year. Both the grand total for the province and that for Calcutta constitute a record.

Foreign trade.

57. Imports into Calcutta aggregated Rs. 61·34 crores, an expansion of 18 per cent. The system of classification of the articles in the sea-borne trade returns into seven main heads for statistical purposes was abandoned and a revised classification into four main heads (viz., I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco, II.—Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured, III.—Articles wholly or mainly manufactured and IV.—Miscellaneous and unclassified) was introduced. Of these four classes, the first three showed an increase. "Articles wholly or mainly manufactured" contributed 79 per cent. of the year's total, and accounted for 92 per cent. of the total increase of 9·37 crores. "Food, Drink, and Tobacco" held second place in point of value, representing 13·8 per cent. of the total imports, and 6·4 per cent. of the total increase. Sugar (Rs. 5·73 crores) represented 67·6 per cent. of the value of this class. The contributions of classes II and IV were 6·1 per cent. and 1·1 per cent., respectively. Of the total imports, 71·97 per cent. came from the United Kingdom as compared with 69·18 per cent. in 1911-12. The shares of the other principal contributing countries were—Java 8·35,

Imports.

Germany 4·43, the United States of America 2·54, the Straits Settlements 1·97, Japan 1·63, Belgium 1·61 and Austria-Hungary 1·45 per cent.

Exports.

58. The total value of exports from the Presidency was Rs. 100·16 crores, an advance of Rs. 8·95 crores, or 9·8 per cent. Of this trade Calcutta claims about 94·4 per cent. Jute continued to be the dominant staple of the export trade, contributing 50 per cent. of the total. The United Kingdom was the best customer, taking 25·06 per cent. of the exports from Calcutta. The United States was second with 16·4 per cent., Germany third with 11·3 per cent. and China fourth with 5·4 per cent.

Trans-frontier trade.

59. The value of the trans-frontier trade (merchandise only) was Rs. 93 lakhs. Some 44 per cent. was with Nepal, while the shares of Sikkim, Tibet and Bhutan were 30, 24 and 2 per cent., respectively. The total trade with Nepal amounted to Rs. 40 lakhs, of which imports into Bengal were valued at Rs. 17 lakhs. The trade with Sikkim amounted to Rs. 28 lakhs. Imports from Tibet were valued at Rs. 13 lakhs, and exports to that country at Rs. 9 lakhs. The total trade with Bhutan amounted to Rs. 2,24,791.

Coasting trade.

60. The value of the coasting trade increased from Rs. 2,308 to Rs. 3,010 lakhs, or by 30·4 per cent. Of this 57·9 per cent. was with Burma, 15·8 per cent. with Madras, 18·3 per cent. with Bombay and Sind, and 1·6 per cent. with non-British ports. The increased receipts of paddy and rice, mineral oil, and raw cotton from Burma, and of cotton-twist and yarn from Bombay again formed a feature of the year's trade. Grain and pulse, jute manufactures and coal maintained the leading rank in the list of exports.

Rail and river-borne trade.

61. The total value of the trade carried by rail and river was Rs. 197 crores as against Rs. 181 crores in 1911-12. Imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, from other provinces were valued at Rs. 56 crores as compared with Rs 59 crores in the preceding year. Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to other provinces rose from Rs. 40·85 crores to Rs. 43·77 crores, an improvement of 7 per cent.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—ESTABLISHMENT.

Establishment.

62. Owing to the transfer of most of the irrigation canals in Bengal to the Province of Bihar and Orissa, only one Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government was sanctioned for the newly constituted Presidency of Bengal. A fifth Superintending Engineer was sanctioned provisionally and was also appointed to act as Deputy Secretary to Government in irrigation matters.

Second Chief Engineer in Public Works Department.

63. Experience having proved that the work could not be carried on efficiently under this arrangement, the necessity for the appointment of a second Chief Engineer, to deal with the work of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, was brought to the notice of the Government of India. The appointment in question was sanctioned for five years after the close of the year.

Jessore Drainage Division.

64. A new Public Works Division, designated the Jessore Drainage Division, with head-quarters at Bongong, was formed in September 1912, and placed under the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle.

Considerable progress was made in the work of assimilating the administrative rules and orders which were in force in the two portions of the newly constituted Presidency of Bengal.

BUILDINGS.

65. The most important works in progress were the extension of the Central Telegraph Office, the new Press buildings in Dhurrumtollah Street, and the new Stamp and Stationery buildings in Church Lane, in Calcutta, the new salt *golas* at Chittagong and the extension of the salt *golas* at Sulkea. **Imperial.**

66. The chief works completed and in progress were— **Provincial.**

(1) Those in connection with Government House at Darjeeling, consequent on the change of status of the head of the province.

(2) An office for the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division at Jalpaiguri.

(3) In connection with Magistrates' and Collectors' Courts, the completion of the eastern block of the new Collectorate buildings at Midnapore, additions to the Barisal Collectorate, and additions and alterations to the Collector's Court at Krishnagar.

(4) In connection with Civil Courts, the extension of the Law Court building at Khulna and the Sessions Court at Jalpaiguri, both of which were completed, and additions and alterations to the Judge's Court at Berhampore.

(5) Among Jail works, the new Press building and the Forms store attached to the new Central Jail, Alipore, the reconstruction of the Noakhali Jail buildings, the hospital in the Krishnagar Jail, the reconstruction of wards Nos. 5—7 in the Burdwan Jail, and the enlargement of the Rampur Boalia Jail.

(6) For the Police Department, the construction of the Central Police Training College buildings at Sarda, which were sufficiently completed to admit of the school being opened, buildings for the military police at Dacca, and the police buildings at Sibpur.

(7) For the Education Departmen , the completion of the physics laboratory at the Presidency College, additions and alterations to the chemical and physical laboratories of the Krishnagar College, and the construction of the physical laboratory at the Rajshahi College.

(8) Among Medical works, the acquisition of land for the construction of a School of Tropical Medicine and Biological Laboratory at the Medical College, Calcutta, the construction of a composite building, consisting of a *post-mortem* room, dead-house and macerating room, with servants' quarters and dissecting room, at the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, and the construction of a new surgical ward in the Sambhu Nath Pundit Hospital at Bhowanipur.

(9) Under "Contribution works," the erection of the statue of Lord Curzon on the Calcutta Maidan, the acquisition of land for the construction of hostels for the Metropolitan, Ripon and Bangabasi Colleges, Calcutta, and the construction of Kanai Lal Seal's out-door dispensary at the General Hospital, Howrah.

COMMUNICATIONS.

67. The work of widening the metalled portion of the Budge-Budge road in the 24-Parganas district was taken up, and the metalling of the Calcutta-Jessore Road in the Jessore district was completed.

The widening of the metalled portion of the Matigara Hill Cart Road from the junction of the Darjeeling Hill Cart Road to the Matigara-Kurseong turning was commenced.

Steps were taken for the construction of a new Inspection bungalow at Hilli on the Hilli-Balurghat Road in the district of Dinajpur.

The Mymensingh and Dewan Bazar roads within the new Civil Station at Dacca were remetalled, and the improvement of the Strand Road at Chittagong was taken up.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

68. The electric lighting of the Eden Gardens, Calcutta, was improved, and the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, were granted a license called the "Calcutta River License, 1912," empowering them to carry their high tension current to Howrah and to supply current to the jetties and steamers on the river Hooghly.

The drains in the Hospital and Jail *jhoras* in Darjeeling were remodelled, and the remodelling of that in the Bryngwyn *jhora* was in progress.

Measures were taken to facilitate the supply of electric current in the town of Dacca by the Dacca Electric Supply Company.

The river protective works at Barisal and Patuakhali were completed and the erosive action of the Megna river at Noakhali was carefully surveyed and measured.

RAILWAYS.

Administration.

69. 199·01 miles of light railways constructed by private enterprise are subject to a certain measure of control by the Government of Bengal. All the more important lines are under the control of the Government of India (Railway Board).

Mileage.

70. The total mileage of railways in Bengal on 31st March 1913 was 2,594·93, of which 116·54 miles were opened to traffic during the year, 82·99 miles being on the standard gauge, and 33·55 miles being on the metre gauge. 150·27 miles of railway on the standard gauge, 49·64 miles on the metre gauge and 36·80 miles on the 2′ 6″ gauge were under construction.

71. Several surveys for new lines were completed by the East Indian, Eastern Bengal State, and Bengal-Duars Railways. The Railway Board also authorised the surveys of several new railway projects. **Surveys.**

72. Messrs. H. V. Low & Co., who were granted a concession for the construction of a line from Krishnagar to Jellinghi, decided not to proceed with the construction of the line. The project was taken up by Mr. W. A. Radice, who was directed to approach the District Board of Nadia for permission to proceed with the scheme. Messrs. Martin & Co., of Calcutta, were authorized to carry out a detailed survey for a line of railway from Contai Road Station to Contai. The Jessore-Jhenidah Railway was under construction during the year. A concession was also granted to Mr. Nibaran Chandra Dutta, of Calcutta, under the branch line terms of 1910, for the construction of a 2′ 6″ gauge railway from Khulna to Bagerhat. **Light Railways.**

73. Considerable progress was made during the year in the work of constructing the Lower Ganges Bridge at Sara. **Sara Bridge.**

74. Great inconvenience was felt by the public owing to the inability of the Railway Administrations to deal promptly with all the traffic offered to them, but the Railway Board and the Boards of Directors of the Railway Companies made strenuous efforts to improve the capacity of open lines and to increase their rolling stock, and there are good grounds for hope that a marked improvement will be obtained in the near future. **Congestion of traffic.**

CANALS.

75. The revenue from the two canals under this head was Rs. 2,73,212 as against Rs. 2,77,835 during the previous year and the area irrigated 80,958 acres as against 80,975. **Major works.**

76. The capital outlay on works under this class for which capital accounts are kept stood at Rs. 1,15,83,617. Receipts amounted to Rs. 5,93,584 as against Rs. 6,28,513 in the year 1911-12. The decrease is due mainly to the fluctuation of traffic on the Calcutta and Eastern canals, to the abnormal shoaling up of the western entrance to the Madaripur Bhil Channel and also to the reduction of toll charges on passenger boats. **Minor works.**

EMBANKMENTS AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

77. The expenditure on embankments was Rs. 3,49,980 and on drainage works Rs. 1,66,029 during the year. **Expenditure.**

78. The important scheme for the drainage of 12,140 acres of low-lying land, known as the "Argowal Circuit," in Midnapore was practically completed. But unfortunately the floods of 1913 have caused extensive damage which will entail further expenditure. The original estimate for the work in 1904 was Rs. 1,29,139; and the revised estimate, made in 1912, was Rs. 1,65,549. **Drainage of the Argowal Circuit in the district of Midnapore.**

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

Imperial Finance.

79. The Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 10,67,50,000 and the charges to Rs. 91,26,000 against Rs. 14,73,29,000 and Rs. 1,03,73,000, respectively in the previous year. The decrease in receipts was chiefly under the head *Opium*, due to there having been no sale of certified opium from November 1912 and to lower prices being obtained at the sales on a smaller number of uncertified chests; and partly under *Land Revenue* owing to special assignments from the Imperial to the Provincial Revenues for expenditure on education, sanitation and discretionary grants. The decrease of expenditure occurred chiefly under *Refunds and Drawbacks*, *General Administration*, *Scientific and other Minor Departments*, and *Civil Works*, owing to heavy payments of the Customs drawbacks and inclusion of charges on account of the Audit Office, Dacca, in the accounts of 1911-12, to larger expenditure on account of decennial Census, the major portion of which work was completed in 1911-12, and also to expenditure on the Museum and the Imperial Secretariat buildings having been incurred in 1911-12.

EXCISE.

Introduction of the contract supply system of country spirit into the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions.

80. Orders were issued during the year for the introduction, with effect from the 1st April 1913, of the contract supply system of country spirit into the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions which are the only portions of the Province to which the system had not been extended. The outstill system has thus been abolished throughout the Presidency.

Revision of the rates of duty on country spirit.

81. The question of the revision of the rates of duty on country spirit was fully considered during the year. The rates of duty on country spirit had been revised piece-meal in different parts of the Province in conjunction with the gradual introduction of the contract distillery system. With the introduction of the system into the remaining areas of the Province with effect from the 1st April 1913, the rates of duty on country spirit were raised generally throughout the Province. The main object of this measure was to transfer taxation from license fees to duty, so as to increase the proportion of the receipts under the latter head.

Enhancement of duty on *Ganja*.

82. With a view to checking the continued increase in the consumption of *ganja*, and in order to divert a portion of the revenue obtained from license fees to the fixed source of duty, the rate of duty on all descriptions of *ganja* was increased from Rs. 11 to Rs. 15 per seer throughout the Presidency of Bengal, with effect from the 1st April 1913.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Provincial Finance.

83. The receipts and charges amounted to Rs. 7,16,15,000 and Rs. 5,70,08,000 respectively as against Rs. 6,17,63,000 and Rs. 5,85,76,000 in 1911-12. The receipts under "Land Revenue Adjustment" increased noticeably owing to the special assignment from the Imperial Revenues for expenditure under "Education and Sanitation." The receipts of the Excise Department were made wholly Provincial. The increase of expenditure in 1911-12 was chiefly due to charges on account of the visit of His Imperial Majesty and other incidental charges connected therewith, *e.g.*, the Coronation Durbar and the grant of the Royal bonus. The payment of the arrears of pay of ministerial officers also contributed to the increased cost in 1911-12.

Extended powers of Local Governments.

84. In accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission upon Decentralization extensive proposals were formulated for the delegation to Local Governments having quasi-permanent Provincial Settlements, of enhanced powers in respect of the creation of permanent and temporary appointments, deputation, the revision of establishment, and the grant of allowances, fees, rewards or honoraria. The Secretary of State having sanctioned the proposals with certain modifications, rules were laid down by the Government of India and circulated within the year. As the settlement with the Government of Bengal is for a period of three years only from 1912-13, the extended powers did not apply primarily to this Province, but with the sanction of the Secretary of State they were held applicable to Bengal from the 1st April 1913.

LOCAL FINANCE.

Local Finance.

85. The total receipts of Local Funds amounted to Rs. 85,78,446 and the charges to Rs. 80,50,647, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 34,65,232 as against an opening balance of Rs. 29,37,433. The new Takdah Cantonment Fund in the district of Darjeeling was opened in August 1912 with a grant of Rs. 17,620 from the Military Department.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registration of Vital Statistics.

86. The registration of vital statistics within municipal limits, was retransferred from the police to the municipal authorities with effect from the 1st April 1913.

MEDICAL SERVICE.

School of Tropical Medicines and Biological Laboratory.

87. The scheme for the establishment of a School of Tropical Medicine and Biological Laboratory in connection with the Medical College, Calcutta, received the sanction of the Secretary of State during the year. Five lakhs were assigned from Imperial revenues towards the scheme, the balance being met from Provincial revenues. The accommodation provided in the plans originally drawn up was found to be unsuitable and revised plans were prepared. The cost was estimated at Rs. 8,32,760, and the increase was provided for by a grant of one lakh from the Research Fund Association. Land has been acquired for the project.

Growth of an independent Medical profession in India.

88. In order to foster the growth of an independent medical profession in India, six appointments of House Physicians and House Surgeons in the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, which were formerly reserved for Civil Assistant Surgeons, were thrown open to private medical practitioners. These posts are tenable for one year and carry an allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem.

PREVENTION OF MALARIA.

Quinine.

89. The distribution of quinine in "treatments" consisting of 20 four-grain tablets, which was reported to have become popular in the districts of Jessore, Nadia and Murshidabad where it was tried during the preceding year, was continued in those places as well as in the Eastern districts where the system had already been introduced by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. Quinine in this form was supplied to Civil Surgeons for gratuitous distribution by itinerant Sub-Assistant Surgeons in selected localities.

At the instance of the Provincial Malaria Committee, Government decided to distribute "treatments" throughout the Presidency in place of the pice-packets and $3\frac{1}{3}$ grain tablets which had been in use in Bengal. Arrangements were made for the local manufacture of these "treatments" with sulphate of quinine in the Juvenile Jail at Alipore. The retail sale price was fixed with effect from 1st August 1913 at four annas each, vendor's commission being allowed at 7 annas per parcel of ten "treatments." In order to popularise Government quinine, steps were taken for the employment of more vendors including ordinary shop-keepers.

EMIGRATION.

Rules under the Jalpaiguri Labour Act, 1912.

90. Rules were issued by Government under sections 5 and 7 of the Jalpaiguri Labour Act (II of 1912) which was passed by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam in March 1912. Employers are now required to maintain a proper record of vital statistics and to submit certain returns to the Civil Surgeon of Jalpaiguri, who has been appointed to be an Inspector under the Act and instructed to report to Government the progress made by the estates in important matters of sanitation, housing, water-supply, drainage, medical arrangements, etc.

91. The Darjeeling Planters' Association represented to Government that the labour supply of the local tea-gardens would be prejudicially affected if recruitment for Assam were allowed in that district. The Association requested that the district, in which recruitment by garden-sardars under Chapter IV of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act is allowed, should be absolutely closed to recruitment of any kind for the labour districts of Assam. Though this request was strongly supported by the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, Government were unable to grant it. Enquiry showed that recruitment in Darjeeling had been on a very small scale and there was no evidence that any labour had actually been drawn from the local tea-gardens. Moreover, the terms offered in Assam being most advantageous to the coolies there was no ground for interference on their behalf.

Recruitment for Assam in the Darjeeling District.

SANITATION.

92. Detailed instructions were issued by Government for the guidance of Municipalities in the appointment of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors. Health Officers were divided into two classes and Sanitary Inspectors into two grades, of which the higher will be recruited in part from the lower. Candidates for appointment as second class Health Officers were required to undergo training for 12 months under the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, and those for second grade inspectorships for 8 months under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Commissioner and the Sanitary Engineer. Municipalities with a population of over 50,000 were advised to appoint a Health Officer of the first class and those with a population of over 16,000 and an income of more than Rs. 40,000 one of the second, or, if they so wish, of the first class. All towns were expected to have one Sanitary Inspector where the population is 10,000, two where it is 30,000, and three at least where it is over 50,000. Government agreed to contribute towards the cost of these Officers when satisfied that the Municipalities concerned were really unable to bear the increased expenditure. The Bengal Municipal Act has since been amended to enable Government to give effect to this policy.

Improvement of the sanitary services.

There will be no provincial service in the case of either Health Officers or Sanitary Inspectors, but each local body will recruit such officers for itself and admit them to the benefit of its Provident Fund.

Two Deputy Sanitary Commissioners not belonging to the Indian Medical Service have been appointed, and the creation of a similar post to be held by an officer of the Indian Medical Service has been sanctioned since the close of the year.

93. To ensure adequate supervision of the sanitary works undertaken by Municipalities, especially in view of the large grants sanctioned by Government for such projects, the superior staff under the Sanitary Engineer was strengthened by the appointment of an additional Assistant Sanitary Engineer for a period of five years. An officer with special experience in water-works schemes has been recruited in England and has joined his duties.

Appointment of an additional Assistant Sanitary Engineer.

Stegomyia Survey in the Port of Calcutta.

94. To ascertain what measures will be necessary to prevent the possible introduction of yellow fever into this country on the opening of the Panama Canal, steps were taken to investigate the prevalence of "stegomyia" mosquitoes in the Port of Calcutta and the conditions under which they exist and breed. Major A. C. MacGilchrist, I.M.S., and two Civil Assistant Surgeons were placed on special duty for this purpose. The investigation lasted from August 1912 to January 1913, and the conditions obtaining in the Port of Calcutta on both banks of the river Hooghly from Cossipur to Budge-Budge and from Budge-Budge to Diamond Harbour were thoroughly examined. A report on the enquiry has been submitted since the close of the year.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION.

Abolition of the "C" Classes examination.

95. The C or Commercial classes, which had been opened in certain selected schools as a nucleus for a modern, as distinguished from the popular literary or classical side, were abolished, on the ground that they had met with but little success.

Fee rates for Sanskrit examination.

96. The old system under which candidates for the first and second Sanskrit examinations were exempt from the payment of an examination fee was discontinued, and it was decided that a fee of Re. 1 should be levied from each candidate for the first examination and a fee of Rs. 2 from each candidate for the second examination. The fee for candidates for the Sanskrit Title examination was raised from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per head.

The Doveton Trust Bill.

97. The Institution known as the Doveton College was founded nearly a century ago for the purpose of providing education for Christian children. The question of the proper application of the Trust Property and Funds of the Institution had long engaged the attention of Government and, as it appeared that the Managing Committee had failed to carry out the intention of the founders, it was decided that the legislature should intervene in order to prevent waste and mismanagement. A Bill was drawn up which provided for the application of the property and Funds, under the direction of Government, to the education of Christian children of the Domiciled Community, and the Government of India were asked to sanction its introduction in the Bengal Legislative Council.

Dacca University.

98. In May 1912 a Committee was appointed to consider a scheme for the creation of a teaching and residential University at Dacca.

The Committee submitted their report in December 1912, and it was then published and circulated for comment and advice. The scheme has since been placed before the Government of India and has received the general approval of that Government and of the Secretary of State.

Dacca Museum.

99. At a meeting held under the presidency of the Divisional Commissioner at Dacca in July 1912, it was resolved to take steps for the establishment of a Local Museum for objects of historical and antiquarian interest. Investigation and research work carried out by private persons and officers of Government had resulted in the collection of many articles of interest and value which were likely to be destroyed or lost unless brought together and placed in proper custody. The scheme has been approved generally by Government and a grant of Rs. 2,000 towards the cost has been made. A room has been provided in the Secretariat at Dacca for the use of the Museum, and a Committee has been appointed to make detailed arrangements.

Reconstitution of the Committee of the Art Gallery of the Indian Museum.

100. During the year Government decided to reconstitute the Committee appointed in 1877 to assist the Principal of the Government School of Art in matters connected with the Public Art Gallery of the Indian Museum, particularly in regard to the selection of pictures to be purchased out of the annual grant given by Government. Among the Members of the Committee as thus reconstituted Government agreed, on the representation of the Trustees of the Indian Museum, to include three members nominated by that body.

Popular lectures in the Indian Museum.

101. In order to make better use of the Indian Museum for educational purposes, the Trustees elaborated a scheme, which subsequently received the approval of this Government and of the Government of India, for the delivery of lectures of a popular and non-technical character on special subjects on which work is being done in the different sections. The delivery of these lectures was initiated after the close of the year.

Education of Children employed in Factories.

102. The education of children employed in Factories had engaged the attention of Government in previous years, and elementary schools had been opened at various industrial centres in the 24-Parganas, but without much success. The problem was again taken up during the year under review. A conference of gentlemen connected with mills in the neighbourhood of Calcutta and others interested in the subject was held, and it was decided that, if possible, arrangements should be made for the instruction of the children of mill-hands, whether employed in factories or not, through the medium of the vernacular, and that a special officer should be deputed to consult with the authorities of the various mills on the spot and to draw up a detailed scheme.

Advisory Committees for Indian students proceeding to England.

103. The question of amalgamating the Central Advisory Committees for Indian students proceeding to England, which existed up to April 1912 in Calcutta and Dacca, was considered. As Dacca is already an educational centre of considerable importance, and as its attractions for students are likely to be greatly enhanced in the near future, it was decided that the Dacca Committee should remain independent of that in Calcutta.

Appointment of a Special Officer for Muhammadan Education in Bengal.

104. The important question of the backward state of Muhammadan education in Bengal engaged the attention of Government, with the result that a proposal was submitted to the Government of India to appoint an additional Assistant Director of Public Instruction who should have full control over *madrassahs* and *maktabs*, and should also visit other schools and colleges to advise as to the best means of improving the conditions under which Muhammadan pupils live and work.

Religious and Moral Instruction.

105. The question of imparting religious and moral instruction in schools is one of very great importance, but it is difficult to devise practical measures to provide such instruction in view of the fact that the principle of religious neutrality must be strictly observed. In compliance with the request of the Government of India the opinions of a number of influential persons were obtained, and conferences were held at Dacca in March 1912 for Eastern Bengal and Assam, and at Calcutta in December of the same year for Western Bengal. A report on the subject has been submitted to the Government of India since the close of the year.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Bengal Library.

106. Although the number of books published during the year again decreased, the quality of those produced was superior to that of 1911. Good works of fiction were numerous, chiefly upon social topics. There were few biographies of merit, but several creditable works on history and literature. The books upon religion were remarkable only for their number, but they ranked undoubtedly first in popular favour.

Press.

107. The most noteworthy tendency of the year was the increased circulation and influence of the Muhammadan newspapers published in Calcutta. The Muhammadan Press also underwent a change of tone. As the war in the Balkans progressed and brought disaster to the Turkish arms, most Muhammadan journals manifested an anti-Government and anti-European tone and a considerable amount of inflammatory writing was produced. The Press Act continued to be worked with moderation.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Transfer of the head-quarters of the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle, from Bankipore to Calcutta.

108. In consequence of the redistribution of territories Bankipore, the head-quarters of the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle, became part of the new Province of Bihar and Orissa, and the question of the location and administrative control of the Archæological Department, Eastern Circle, was referred to the Government of India. That Government proposed the transfer of the head-quarters of the

Superintendent to Calcutta for the sake of his own work and that of the Archæological Section of the Museum. This Government agreed to the suggestion and the transfer was effected from the beginning of the year 1913.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

Revision of Rules under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886 (VI of 1886).

109. Under the power conferred on Local Governments by sections 26, 28 and 36 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886 (VI of 1886), read with section 6 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration (Amendment) Act, 1911 (IX of 1911), revised rules were framed to regulate proceedings under the Act in supersession of the existing rules published by the Government of India and the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Renovation of pictures in Government House.

110. On the invitation of the Government of India, the Bengal Government decided to have reproductions made in England of 11 out of the 17 historical pictures in Government House, Calcutta, which had been sent to England for renovation previous to their removal elsewhere.

Amendment of the Calcutta Burial Boards Act, 1869.

111. The Calcutta Burial Boards Act was amended in order to permit of the appointment of separate Burial Boards for any community other than the Muhammadan and Christian communities.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1912-1913.

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Map of Bengal.

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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II, PAGES 1—134.

Changes in the Administration.

Board of Revenue.

DURING the year an Act (Bengal Act II, of 1913) was passed giving effect to the arrangement noted in the Administration Report of 1911-12, by which the Board of Revenue is to consist of one member appointed by the Local Government.

Second Chief Engineer in Public Works Department.

2. The temporary appointment of a second Chief Engineer in the Public Works Department, who was also to be Deputy Secretary to Government, was sanctioned for five years.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

COOCH BEHAR.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for 1912-13.]

[*Area, 1,307 square miles; chief produce—rice, jute, tobacco; population, 593,052; military force, 194 men and 4 guns; annual revenue, Rs. 31,92,502. Ruling Chief—Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur; family, of Tibetan or Dravidian origin; residence, Cooch Behar.*]

The Council.

3. During the year under report Mr. E. W. Collin, a retired officer of the Indian Civil Service, succeeded Mr. A. W. Dentith, I.C.S., as Superintendent of the State and Vice-President of the Council. On the executive side the State Council held 33 meetings against 47 of the previous year; at 21 of these His Highness presided. On the judicial side 37 meetings were held against 35 of the previous year; 35 appeals and motions, both civil and criminal, were disposed of. No meeting of the Legislative Council was held during the year.

State Railways.

4. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railways were Rs. 2,79,467, showing an increase of Rs. 8,487, and the working expenses

were Rs. 1,20,220. The net earnings were therefore 7·78 per cent. on the capital outlay against 5·75 per cent. of the previous year.

Finance. 5. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 31,92,502 against Rs. 27,40,068 of the previous year, while the total expenditure increased from Rs. 26,68,774 to Rs. 30,22,163. The closing balance increased by Rs. 1,63,339 to Rs. 15,54,019, inclusive of Government money, and of deposits amounting to Rs. 4,85,057.

Crops and condition of the people. 6. Except in the Sadar station and the Tufanganj subdivision, the rainfall was evenly distributed. But owing to the cyclonic weather which prevailed in the months of June and November, the average outturn of rice was only 8 annas and that of late rice and jute 12 annas. High prices prevailed in consequence of the short production, rice selling at Rs. 5, and jute at from Rs. 7 to Rs. 10 per maund ; the rates for tobacco also remained high, varying from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30. Owing to the high prices realized for the principal crops the condition of the people was generally prosperous.

Criminal justice. 7. The total number of cases reported during the year was 2,999, showing a decrease of 344 cases, mainly minor thefts and public and local nuisances. The percentage of convictions to the total number of cognizable and non-cognizable cases fell from 72·37 and 69·31 to 63·04 and 66·47, respectively.

Education. 8. The progressive policy of the State was maintained during the year. The number of pupils attending the subdivisional higher schools rose from 639 to 672 ; primary schools increased from 301 to 313, while the number of pupils rose from 10,762 to 11,057. The statistics show a falling off in female education. The number of girls' schools fell from 21 to 17 and the number of pupils in them from 417 to 378. A satisfactory feature of the progress of education in the State was the success attained by the students of the Victoria College at the various University Examinations at which they appeared.

Public health. 9. The general health of the people was not so good as in the preceding year. In the Dinhata subdivision there was an epidemic of cholera against which suitable measures were taken. The measures for checking the spread of Kala-azar were continued during the year.

Political Agent. 10. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division was appointed during the year to be *ex-officio* Political Agent for Cooch Behar for the purposes of the Indian Extradition Act, 1903 (XV of 1903).

HILL TIPPERA.

[Administration Report of the Tippera State for 1912-13.]

[*Area, 4,086 square miles ; population (1911), 229,613 ; revenue from State, Rs. 9,86,827 ; revenue from zamindari in British territory, Rs. 9,39,845 ; military force, 229 men ; chief products—rice and cotton. Present Raja—Birendra Kishore Deb Barman Manikya ; aged 30 years ; family, Indo-Chinese ; caste, Kshatriya ; has male heir ; residence, Agartala.*]

Visit of His Excellency the Governor. 11. His Excellency Lord Carmichael, accompanied by Lady Carmichael, visited the State in February 1913 and stayed there for two days as the Raja's guest. His Excellency visited some of the local institutions and laid the foundation stone of the *Howrah* Bridge.

Political Agent. 12. Captain H. A. Murray, I.A., was Political Agent till the 13th June 1912, when he went on leave, and Mr. Rankin, I.C.S., Magistrate of Tippera, was appointed to act as Political Officer in addition to his own duties. The present Political Agent, Captain R. C. B. Williams, I.A., took charge of his duties on the 12th November 1912.

Revenue and Finance. 13. The revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 11,06,606 against Rs. 10,40,219 for the preceding year and Rs. 9,86,827, the average of the preceding five years. The gross receipts of the State and the attached zamindaris amounted to Rs. 20,62,246, and with refunds and deposits the total amount was Rs. 25,69,602 against Rs. 25,28,575 of the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 20,49,409, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 5,20,193.

Protection.

14. The total number of ofiences reported to the Police was 814 against 695 of the last year. The number of persons arrested was 541, of whom 500 were sent up for trial and 359 convicted. A decline in the percentage of stolen property recovered was due to the occurrence of a large number of money thefts and thefts of timber. Certain members of the State police received rewards from the British Government for the successful capture of several absconding dacoits. The number of original criminal cases instituted during the year exceeded that of 1911 by 142, and the number of offences against property increased by 51, but the cases under the head "Offences against the State and public tranquillity" fell from 61 to 51.

Weather and Crops.

15. The rainfall during the year averaged 96·45 inches against 111·37 of the previous year. It was very unevenly distributed and in some places unseasonable. Some damage was done to *aus* paddy, but the outturn of *aman* was fairly satisfactory. *Jhum* products as a class suffered very seriously, partly from untimely rain and partly from rats which continued to give trouble as in the previous year. The outturn of cotton was above the normal. Rinderpest of a virulent type broke out in part of the Sadar subdivision, but prompt measures were taken to check it by inoculation. On the whole the people inhabiting the plains were well off; but the failure of *jhum* cultivation materially affected the hill people, who would have fared badly had it not been for the comparatively rich harvests of cotton. Advances to the amount of Rs. 13,000 were paid to these people. Public health continued on the whole to be satisfactory throughout the year.

Condition of the people.

(Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1912-13.)

The agricultural classes.

16. The material condition of the people, especially of the cultivating and labouring classes, was on the whole satisfactory. The outturn of the principal crops in most places was good, while at the same time high prices ruled throughout the year, much to the benefit of the cultivators.

Floods and distress.

17. In portions of the Sadar subdivision of the Birbhum district the floods of June 1913 caused much distress. But relief was given by a grant of Rs. 5,000 from the Ram Lal Mukherjee Fund, supplemented by contributions raised within and outside the district, and by a special grant of Rs. 10,000 made by Government for distribution in agricultural loans. In Barisal the heavy rains of June 1912, the cyclonic conditions which followed, and the appearance of insect-pests caused some damage to the standing crops, but the situation was met by the distribution of agricultural loans. The Gumti embankment in Tippera was breached in June 1912: this caused some local distress and a sum of Rs. 29,641 was distributed in agricultural loans to afford relief. There was renewed distress among the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, whose crops were damaged by an insect-pest and to some extent by rats, before they had recovered fully from the effects of the scarcity of the preceding season. Throughout the district the scarcity was greater than that of the year before. Accordingly when no more than Rs. 33,126 had been recovered on account of the agricultural loans of the preceding year, not only were the collections suspended but a further grant of Rs. 1,20,000 was sanctioned for distribution in loans.

Wages and salaries.

18. The demand for labour, both skilled and unskilled, was good, and the rise in wages compensated for the dearness of food-grains. But the people of the middle classes depending on small fixed incomes suffered greatly from the continued rise in the prices of food-grains and other necessaries.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1912-13.]

Total collections.

19. The number of estates paying land revenue was 96,671, as against 96,431 in the previous year: of these 91,458 were permanently-settled, 3,001 temporarily-settled and 2,212 managed directly by Government. The increase of 240 estates was mainly due to partitions of estates and to the creation of new estates by resumptions and settlements. The current demands, Rs. 2,71,04,157, increased by Rs. 1,52,965, owing chiefly to new settlements, resettlements and progressive increase of demands, and also to the inclusion, for the first time, of the receipts from the protected forest in the Bakarganj Sundarbans. The total collections (Rs. 2,71,13,280) showed better results than in the previous year, being 96·29 per cent. of the total and 100·03 per cent. of the current demands. The bulk of the remissions (Rs. 46,470) was allowed in estates held direct by Government.

Collections in—(a) Permanently-settled estates.

20. In the permanently-settled estates the current demands amounted to Rs. 2,16,24,919 and the collections exceeded 99 per cent. of the demands in all districts except Hooghly (98·81), Midnapore (98·32), Jessore (98·66) and Bakarganj (97·54). The deficiency was slight in Hooghly while that in the other three districts was caused by short payments from two estates under the management of the Court of Wards, of which the land revenue, being secure as a first charge, was withheld for a short time to allow more pressing debts to be paid. Adjustment was made in succeeding *kists*.

(b) Temporarily-settled estates.

21. The three sub-classes of temporarily-settled estates are—(1) private estates settled with the proprietors, (2) private estates leased to farmers and (3) Government estates leased to farmers. The total collections, Rs. 15,07,001, represented 88·38 per cent. of the total and 98·44 per cent. of the current demands. The prescribed standards of current collections were attained in all districts except Bakarganj, where, out of the total outstanding balance of Rs. 1,14,312, no less than Rs. 81,423 had to be kept in revenue deposit pending the disposal of a civil suit.

(c) Estates held direct by Government.

22. The estates held direct by Government include two classes, viz.—(1) those owned by private proprietors but managed by Government and (2) those owned by Government. The total collections, Rs. 39,84,607, showed an improvement, being 84·64 per cent. of the total and 100·91 per cent. of the current demands, as against 83·17 and 97·72, respectively, in the previous year. In twelve districts the collections fell below the prescribed standard. The balances were heaviest in Midnapore (Rs. 1,73,474) and Chittagong (Rs. 1,96,683). In the former, the greater part of the balance was due from the two estates of Majnamutha and Jalamutha managed by the Khas Tahsil office at Contai, a number of whose tenants withheld payment of the rent as fixed in the recent settlement and instituted civil suits. Some of these have been decided against Government and are now pending in the Appellate Court. The short collections in Chittagong are attributed to the fact that the Government estates there consist of a very large number of scattered holdings and that more than half the annual current demand falls due in the May and June *kists* at the very end of what now constitutes the Revenue year. Payment is generally not made till after the harvesting of the *aus* crop and so there was a heavy balance at the end of June.

Miscellaneous land revenue.

23. The total collections amounted to Rs. 7,67,620 as against Rs. 3,30,248 in the previous year. The increase is explained by heavy recoveries of survey and settlement charges in the district of Faridpur, where the receipts rose to Rs. 4,49,807 from Rs. 15,438 in 1911-12. Of the amount (Rs. 1,63,958) shown under "Other receipts," the largest item was Rs. 57,325 realized from the Burdwan estate on account of *pulbandi* contribution.

24. There was a net increase of 31,167·53 acres in the area of land settled, and of Rs. 1,28,259 in revenue.

Estates temporarily-settled and directly managed.

25. Of the 268 petty estates of which the land revenue was redeemed, 184 were permanently-settled holdings in the Government estates of Calcutta and its suburbs redeemed under orders of Government, while 71 were estates redeemed in the district of Dacca under section 11 of the old Partition Act, VIII (B. C.) of 1876. Their total revenue was Rs. 392 and their aggregate price Rs. 11,478.

Redemption of land revenue.

26. Special money-orders numbered 3,20,340, and the remittances of land revenue and cesses amounted to Rs. 17,26,260, as against 303,326 and Rs. 17,40,026, respectively, in the preceding year. Remittances exceeded a lakh of rupees in the districts of Midnapore, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Chittagong. The average value of an order was Rs. 5·4. The land revenue and road-cess *tauzis* are now amalgamated in the whole of the Presidency, except in the district of Nadia, and a proposal to issue for Bengal a combined money-order form for land revenue and cesses is only awaiting the reorganization of postal circles between the provinces of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa. The system of payment of rent by money-order remained in force throughout the Presidency, except in the district of Darjeeling and in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. In the previous year there had been a considerable decrease in the total number of rent money-orders, but an increase in the amount remitted. In 1912-13 there was a further, though smaller, decrease in the number of rent money-orders issued, which fell from 62,053 to 60,525, and also a decrease, from Rs. 9,98,833 to Rs. 9,92,776 in the aggregate amount remitted. The decrease was chiefly in the districts of Burdwan and Midnapore, where the number declined from 2,487 and 7,846 to 301 and 4,237, respectively. This points to more amicable relations between landlord and tenant. There was a further increase from 21·8 to 25·1 in the percentage of cases where money-orders were refused by landlords. The percentage was highest (77·4) in Pabna and lowest (1·9) in Jalpaiguri. These refusals are reported in some cases to be due to a fear that acceptance will involve the recognition of transfers and prejudice claims to enhancement of rent. These apprehensions appear to be unfounded, but Government are considering the question of revising the present form, in order to remove any reasonable objections which landlords may have to it.

Remittances of revenue and rent by money-orders.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE

27. Defaults and sales numbered respectively 9,895 and 920, against 10,546 and 878 during the preceding year. The proportion borne by the prices received to the Government revenue of the properties sold rose slightly, since 5·8 times the amount of the revenue was realised, as against 5·1 times the revenue in 1911-12. Eighty-nine tenures and holdings managed directly by Government were sold under the provisions of Act XI of 1859. Of these, 26 were purchased on behalf of Government for one rupee each. One hundred and twenty-one appeals against sales were preferred to the Commissioners. Ten sales were annulled under section 2 of Act VII (B.C.) of 1868, and 27 were annulled by Government under section 26 of Act XI of 1859.

Coercive measures—(a) Sale Laws.

28. The total number of certificates filed (exclusive of those for cesses which have been separately noticed in the Section on Cesses) was 69,677, as against 43,556 in the previous year. The percentage of certificates disposed of to the total number for disposal declined from 68·4 in 1911-12 to 60·2. The number of cases left pending was 35,003, of which 6,886 had been pending for more than six months. The number of long pending cases is still very high in Midnapore, Howrah and Nadia. In most of the cases disposed of, payment was made on the issue of notices and on attachment of property. Actual sales had to be resorted to in a small percentage only.

(b) Certificate procedure.

29. Twenty-nine persons were committed to civil jails during the year in the enforcement of certificates. Of these, 24 were imprisoned for non-payment of Government demands and 5 for non-payment of Court of Wards and District Board dues.

(c) Imprisonment.

30. The total number of processes served rose from 906,767 to 935,724. The amount of process fees realized was Rs. 3,62,048, against Rs. 3,53,365

Processes.

in the preceding year, and the total cost of service (including the pay of the supervising establishment, debitable to land revenue) was Rs. 2,19,462, against Rs. 2,15,111. In only two districts—Khulna and Jalpaiguri—did the cost of the process-serving establishment exceed the receipts from fees. In Bakarganj and Rajshahi the cost of service nearly equalled the amount of fees realized. The system of serving processes by daffadars through the presidents of village *panchayats* was in force in the districts of Dacca, Tippera and Hooghly throughout the year, and was extended during the year to the Sadar and Kalna subdivisions of the Burdwan district and to the Sadar subdivision of Birbhum. The result of the experiment was encouraging and its further extension to selected subdivisions in the Presidency Division has been sanctioned.

OTHER REVENUE WORK.

Land Registration.

31. The applications under the Bengal Land Registration Act, VII of 1876, for registration of the succession to proprietary interests in land by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise, numbered 46,179, of which 33,109 were granted before the close of the year. The numbers of old interests removed and new interests recorded were 34,873 and 42,965, respectively. At the close of the year there were in all 929,361 recorded interests in the Presidency, as against 930,640 at the beginning. The expenditure on account of land registration work fell from Rs. 31,561 in the preceding year to Rs. 16,582. The marked decrease is due to the exclusion of the figures for permanent establishment. The fees and fines realized amounted to Rs. 18,810, as against Rs. 17,338 in 1911-12. No case of fraudulent registration was detected in any district of the Presidency during the year under review. In most of the districts the registers are reported to be generally in good condition.

Partitions.

32. The year opened with 171 cases and 107 were instituted, making a total of 278 for disposal : 44 cases were actually disposed of, as against 56 in the preceding year. Of these, 18 cases were struck off for various reasons. Two hundred and thirty-four cases were left undisposed of at the close of the year; of these 60 have been pending for over two years. As in the previous year, there was no whole-time Partition officer except in Khulna. In the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Jessore, where there are Partition Funds, the incidence of cost per acre was Re. 1-11-0½, As. 9-8 and Re. 1-4, against Re. 1-0-0½, Re. 1-1-3 and As. 12-4 respectively in the preceding year. The increase in cost in Dacca is reported to be due to the fact that the cost of a single case disposed of, which had gone on for 32 years, amounted to Rs. 7,247 out of the total cost of Rs. 8,922. Proposals for simplifying the procedure and for expediting work under the Partition Act are under the consideration of the Board.

Land acquisition.

33. Proceedings were confirmed for the acquisition, on behalf of Government and local bodies and Companies, of land covering an area of 3,302 acres at a total cost of Rs. 24,31,015, as compared with an area of 4,021 acres at a cost of Rs. 1,34,62,898 during the preceding year. Of this total Rs. 14,13,004 was for the acquisition of lands for Government, including State Railways, and Rs. 10,18,011 for all other purposes, viz., for District Boards, Municipalities, and Railway and other Companies. The average cost per acre of the lands for which acquisition proceedings were confirmed was Rs. 736, against Rs. 3,348 in the preceding year. This marked decrease in the average cost is chiefly due to the fact that in 1911 lands costing over a crore of rupees were acquired for the Calcutta Port Commissioners, while in 1912 very few proceedings for costly projects in the town of Calcutta or its suburbs were confirmed.

Loans—(a) Land Improvement Loans Act.

34. The amount of loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act outstanding at the commencement of the year was Rs. 2,89,678 and a sum of Rs. 27,213 was advanced in loans during the year. Of the total outstanding principal (Rs. 3,16,891), Rs. 1,59,987 fell due for repayment during the year. Realisations amounted to Rs. 1,08,347, including a sum of Rs. 1,079 collected

in advance; a total of Rs. 2,367 was remitted. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 2,06,177, of which Rs. 49,725 was overdue.

(b) Agriculturists' Loans Act.

35. The amount advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act was Rs. 64,699, and the outstanding balance of the previous year was Rs. 3,78,454. The aggregate amount outstanding was thus Rs. 4,43,153, of which Rs. 3,38,568 fell due for recovery within the year. The total collections amounted to Rs. 2,32,283, including Rs. 552 advance and Rs. 39 excess payments, and a sum of Rs. 518 was remitted. The balance recoverable in future years is Rs. 2,10,391 (including Rs. 244 under suspension), of which no less than Rs. 1,06,487 was overdue at the end of the year. Heavy amounts were overdue in Nadia and Tippera.

Surveys.

[Report of the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th September 1912.]

Outturn for the year.

36. Traverse survey was carried on in the districts of Mymensingh, Dacca, Jalpaiguri and Midnapore, over a total of 3,279 square miles. The main part of the Calcutta surveys has been completed, but no decision has yet been reached upon the difficult question of the maintenance of the maps and records.

Administrative and other changes.

37. In connection with the reconstitution of the Provinces it was decided that the arrangements then existing for the control of survey work should continue as a temporary measure. Lieutenant-Colonel R. T. Crichton, C.I.E., who became Director of Surveys of Bihar and Orissa from the 1st April 1912, thus remained in charge of the operations in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions (including Calcutta) and in the district of Darjeeling, while Major F. C. Hirst continued to be Director of Surveys in Assam and the remainder of this Presidency. Upon Colonel Crichton's departure on leave in March 1913, the Bengal work which had been in his charge was taken over by Major Hirst in addition to his other duties and the work of the Bengal Drawing office was transferred to the Drawing office located in Shillong. Shortly after the close of the year, Major Hirst moved his own head-quarters office and that of the traverse section from Shillong to Calcutta.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Annual Report of the Director of Land Records, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th September 1912.]

General.

38. The work of the Settlement Department lay in fifteen districts, and the area cadastrally surveyed during the year was 2,852 square miles as against 1,960 square miles in the previous year. Records-of-rights have been prepared under the Bengal Tenancy Act for areas aggregating 10,266 square miles, and are in course of preparation for 12,608 square miles.

Administrative and other changes.

39. After the partition of 1905, the Bengal Tenancy Act was amended on somewhat different lines in Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam. Most of the divergencies relate to matters of a technical nature or of minor importance and some are due to differences in the local conditions of the two parts of the Presidency. There is no indication that the present position has caused or is likely to cause any practical inconvenience, and it has therefore been decided to defer consolidation of the Law until a general amendment of the Act is undertaken. Steps are, however, being taken to bring into line as far as possible the rules under the Act and the instructions in the Survey and Settlement Manuals.

The procedure, adopted by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, of placing under the control of the Director of Land Records all minor settlements which involve the employment of any special establishment was extended to the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. Certain reforms in procedure have recently been introduced in connection with these minor operations and are expected to result in an appreciable reduction of the cost.

Land Revenue Settlements.

40. Good progress was made in the settlement of land revenue in the district of Faridpur. The temporarily-settled area consisted chiefly of alluvial

lands in the large rivers, and a great increase in fertility due to rich alluvial deposits permitted a considerable increase in the rental.

In the Western Duars of the district of Jalpaiguri the reassessment of revenue was in progress in some of the backward parganas.

Other settlements.

41. Operations not primarily undertaken with a view to the settlement of revenue were in progress on a large scale in the districts of Faridpur, Jalpaiguri, Dacca, Mymensingh and Midnapore, and in the Rampur Hât subdivision of the district of Birbhum. Satisfactory progress was made during the year in all these operations.

Faridpur.

42. In Faridpur the programme which consisted of the printing of over half a million pages of the record and 300 square miles of final publication and recovery of costs was practically completed. The recovery of costs has begun with very satisfactory results, and the end of the work is now in view, although a cyclone which wrecked the Settlement office in November 1912 unfortunately delayed the operations.

Jalpaiguri.

43. The programme in Jalpaiguri consisted of 502 square miles of attestation and 946 square miles of fair copy. Preparation of the fair copy had to be postponed, as delays occurred in the completion of cess revaluation and of revision of land revenue. It is hoped that final publication will be completed for the whole district during the current year.

Dacca.

44. In the district of Dacca the programme was successfully completed. This is the most difficult of the districts at present under settlement. Subinfeudation is considerable, while the intermingling of estates in the villages is extraordinary. The work in Bikrampur with its close cultivation and its population of 2,000 to the square mile proved to be extraordinarily difficult.

Mymensingh.

45. In Mymensingh good progress was made with field-work and attestation and a satisfactory start was made in the recovery of costs, but less than half the programme of final publication was carried out. The majority of cases filed after final publication were disposed of. The only point of interest was a dispute between the Jafarshahi zamindars and their tenants as to the length of the local *hât* (unit of measurement) which was decided in favour of the tenants.

Both in this district and in Dacca, the large number of applications for the partition of estates caused serious delay in the completion of the record-of-rights. It has therefore been decided that the Settlement Department should be relieved of partition work.

Midnapore.

46. This was the first season's work in Midnapore, taken up in continuation of the operations in 1,069 square miles, chiefly of Government estates, which were concluded in 1911. The programme which consisted of 955 square miles of field-work was successfully carried out although the staff was untrained and inexperienced. A good deal of information was obtained as to the rights of cultivators, the history of Sonthali tenancies and the prevalence of produce-rents, which will be of use at the time of attestation when the main difficulties in connection with this settlement will be fully disclosed.

Rampur Hat.

47. In the Rampur Hât subdivision of Birbhum, considerable progress was made, but the period of the operations had to be extended to enable rents to be settled for Sonthali tenants under section 112 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Many commutations of produce-rents to cash-rents under section 40 of the Bengal Tenancy Act were effected, chiefly for Sonthali raiyats.

Minor settlements.

48. Minor operations supervised by district officers were carried on in eleven districts. Some of these were for the settlement of land revenue in Government or temporarily-settled estates, and the rest for the preparation of records-of-rights in private estates. Final publication of the records of the Mokimpur Ward's estate in Jessore was completed, and the programme of field-work in the Khulna portion of the estate was accomplished. The chief difficulty was the apathy of the tenants, which amounted at one time to obstruction. In Bakarganj the assessment of alluvion under Act IX of 1847 continued, while an area of 21 square miles was added to the operations. In Noakhali the programme for proceedings in 45 estates covering an area of 157 square miles was practically completed; a considerable saving was effected by the efficient management of the special officer in charge. In Hooghly there was a miscellaneous programme covering an area of 47 square miles under a special settlement officer. Applications for further operations in

this district were received in large numbers, but it was decided to postpone any further work to the period when a record-of-rights is prepared for the district as a whole.

Maintenance of records.

49. A report was submitted to the Government of India upon the scheme for the maintenance of the record-of-rights in Eastern Bengal districts.

Boundary marks.

50. The work of inspection and maintenance of boundary marks received due attention.

Waste Lands.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1912-13.]

Waste Lands.

51. The existing rules for the grant of waste land leases to large capitalists in the 24-Parganas and Khulna portions of the Sundarbans continued to be under suspension, pending the decision of Government upon the revised rules framed by the Board of Revenue. The numbers of leases granted in the 24-Parganas Sundarbans under the former rules and the rules of 1853 were 188 and 93 respectively. The revenue payable in respect of them was Rs. 73,001 and Rs. 79,459, which will rise eventually to Rs. 2,35,111 and Rs. 80,033, respectively. The number of leases in Saugor Island remained six, with an annual revenue demand of Rs. 956 rising eventually to Rs. 11,931. In Jalpaiguri *parwanas* for possession were issued in respect of 29 waste land *jotes*. The regular leases under the Arable Waste Land Lease Rules will be issued in the course of the current settlement.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1912-13.]

Number and Management.

52. The total number of estates under direct management, including estates of private individuals managed by Government, was 2,212 with a current demand of Rs. 39,48,416. The percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 6·93. The condition of the tenants was satisfactory. Good crops are reported to have been obtained in practically all the districts. There was no material change in the system of management. In the district of Midnapore, extra establishment was required to cope with the rush of mutation work in the Contai khas mahals and to look after a large number of civil suits, arising for the most part out of the recent settlement proceedings in the Majnamutha and Jalamutha estates, which were pending in the different Courts. The revision of the khas mahal establishment in all the districts of the Chittagong Division is kept pending until the general question of increasing the percentage of the grant for the management and improvement of Government estates, which is under consideration, is decided.

Grants for improvements.

53. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 1,10,551 under the heads of Miscellaneous and Sanitary improvements, Rs. 9,254 was spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 56,429 on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 2,477 on roads and bridges, and the remainder on tree-planting and other miscellaneous objects. The largest unspent balance, out of the total grant of Rs. 1,14,478 sanctioned by the Board for works of improvement, was in the 24-Parganas, where there was a saving of Rs. 4,075.

Colonisation in the Bakarganj Sundarbans.

54. There were 715 new colonists settled on 54,586 bighas of land, as against 317 colonists on 8,398 bighas in the previous year. This increase is said to be due to the fact that the favourable conditions for settlers in the Sundarbans and the very good crops of the previous year in the cleared portion attracted a large number of poor cultivators from other parts of the district. Reclamation is progressing well, and a large area is expected shortly to come under cultivation. The general health of the people in the Sundarbans was good, although there were some few deaths from cholera in Kalamegha and Nilganj.

Roads.

55 A sum of Rs. 1,64,124 was expended on roads and communications in Government estates, against the Government 1½ per cent. grant of Rs. 57,686 for this purpose. The excess was met from District Board funds.

Education.

56. The expenditure on education in Government estates during the year amounted to Rs. 59,796 against a Government grant of Rs. 45,380. The excess was met from local grants. The total numbers of schools and pupils on Government estates in the Presidency were respectively 2,262 and 74,485, against 2,293 and 74,304 in the previous year. The number of schools decreased chiefly in Mymensingh, Bakarganj, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and Rangpur. In Jalpaiguri the number of schools fell from 151 to 82, and of pupils from 4,118 to 2,309, owing to the transfer of 69 schools from the 1 per cent. grant to the District Fund. The increase in the number of pupils in the district of Midnapore was considerable, namely, 30,987 against 28,617 in the preceding year. There was also a satisfactory increase in the number of pupils attending the schools in Government estates in Bogra, Pabna, Darjeeling, Chittagong and Tippera.

Sale of estates.

57. One hundred and one estates, covering an area of 883 acres in the Burdwan, Presidency and Dacca Divisions, were sold during the year for Rs. 20,940, subject to a total revenue of Rs. 3,237. In addition to these, three plots of Railway "A" class land with a total area of a quarter of an acre were sold revenue-free in the district of Murshidabad for Rs. 105.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report on the Administration of Wards' and Attached Estates for the year 1912-13.]

Number of Estates and payment of Government demands.

58. During the year the management of certain estates, which had been divided between East and West Bengal, was amalgamated, and the number of estates under management was thus reduced from 68 to 63. Four estates were released, leaving 59 estates under management. This includes the remaining one-third portion of the Bhawal Estate, which came under management during the year. The total amount of revenue and cesses due to Government, including arrears of Rs. 1,34 264, was Rs. 14,49,117, of which 92·3 per cent. was paid against 93·5 per cent. in 1911.

Rent and cesses due to superior landlords.

59. There was an appreciable improvement in the payment of rent and cesses to superior landlords ; 71·6 per cent. of the amount due was paid as compared with 60·3 per cent. in the previous year, leaving Rs. 2,47,474 still unpaid out of a total demand of Rs. 8,77,020. In most cases, the delay in making these payments was due to disputes with co-sharers and other legal difficulties.

Collection of rent and cesses.

60. The demand for rent and cesses due to the estates under management was Rs. 1,01,34,912, including an arrear demand of Rs. 58,83,178. Out of this Rs. 45,11,723, or 44·5 per cent., was collected against 43·6 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of collections on the current demand was 106·1 against 103·1 in the previous year. The standard of 100 per cent. collections on current demand was exceeded in all the divisions, the highest percentage (114·3) being reached in the Burdwan Division and the lowest (102·4) in the Presidency Division.

Balances of rent and cesses.

61. The outstanding balances of rent and cesses due to all estates totalled Rs. 54,97,653, which represents 129·2 per cent. on the current demand and 54·2 per cent. on the total demand against 124·6 per cent. and 52·7 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. The balances exceeded the current demand in the Dacca Division (183·7 per cent.) and in the Presidency Division (101·9 per cent.) and fell below it in the Chittagong (90·5 per cent.), Burdwan (90·0 per cent.) and Rajshahi Divisions (52·0 per cent.). In the Burdwan Division the increase in the percentage of arrear balances is due to the inclusion of the figures of a new estate with a balance of Rs. 34,724, which had become barred by limitation before the Court took charge. In the Presidency Division the increase was chiefly due to the inclusion of the figures of the portion of the Tagore Estate situated in Eastern Bengal. The estate shews an outstanding balance of Rs. 3,29,404, out of

which a sum of Rs. 1,48,746 is reported to be bad and irrecoverable. But since the mortgagees of the estate have instituted a suit for the recovery of their dues and are likely to foreclose on the properties of the estate, it is considered undesirable to write off the balances at present. In the Dacca Division the increase was largely due to the assumption of the charge of the remaining one-third share of the Bhawal Estate with a heavy outstanding balance. A large portion of the arrears in the big estates of the division is irrecoverable and will have to be written off. The completion of the settlement operations now in progress in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh is expected to facilitate the elimination of the irrecoverable balances. In the Chittagong Division only the three estates in the district of Tippera had outstanding balances exceeding 25 per cent. In the Rajshahi Division the arrear balance of the Churaman Estate increased considerably owing, it is said, to a partial failure of the winter crops.

Debts of Estates.

62. The debts of the Pachetgarh Estate in the Burdwan Division were reduced by Rs. 8,015 to Rs. 45,299. The balance of the debts of the Jhargram Estate at the close of the year under report stood at Rs. 5,87,703. A loan of Rs. 6,00,000 at 6 per cent. interest has since been successfully negotiated and the old loan at 7 per cent. has been paid off. It is hoped that by the conversion of this loan the liberation of the estate from its encumbrances will be hastened. A sum of Rs. 25,414 was paid towards the settling of the debt of the Tagore Estate. But the mortgagees have instituted a suit, on the disposal of which it is expected that the Court of Wards will be freed from the management of this heavily encumbered estate. No part of the principal of the debt of the Mukherji Estate could be paid during the year, but the interest was paid in full. The total outstanding debt of the Bhawal Estate at the close of the year (Rs. 25,65,597) included doubtful and disputed claims to the extent of Rs. 21,11,250, into which the Collector is making enquiries. The debts on the estate of Khwaja Atikulla were reduced to Rs. 8,43,379, but the estate is embarrassed by the high rate of compound interest at which loans were contracted. The debts of the Golakpur and Sherpur Estates were reduced to Rs. 6,53,563 and Rs. 1,16,786, respectively, at the close of the year. It is under contemplation to give up the charge of two of the most heavily encumbered estates in Bakarganj, viz., Bhukailas No. II and Khalisakota. In the Chittagong Division the debts of Bhukailas Estate No. I were reduced to Rs. 2,60,000, and in the Rajshahi Division a loan of Rs. 59,000 at 4 per cent. interest was sanctioned by the Government of India for the repayment of the debts of the Karmi Estate.

Management charges.

63. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demand was again 12·1 for the whole province. The standard of 10 per cent. was exceeded in all divisions except the Presidency Division (9·8). By abolishing the sub-managership the cost of managing the Boinchee Behary Lal Mukharji's Trust Estate in Hooghly was reduced from 15 to 13·1 per cent. The high percentage of 27·8 in the Talipabad Estate in the district of Dacca is attributed to the decrease in the current demand in consequence of the exclusion of fictitious *jamas*, of the payment of arrear establishment bills, and of an increase of pay to Naibs and Tahsildars on the abolition of *tahuri* (commission levied from tenants). The Board has asked the Commissioner to see that the management charges are brought down to the prescribed limit as soon as the settlement proceedings now in progress are over. A scheme for reorganizing the collecting staff of the Rangpur portion of the Kasimbazar Estate, effecting appreciable reduction, has been sanctioned by the Board and one for the Tippera portion of the estate is under consideration.

Improvements.

64. The standard fixed for expenditure on schools is 1 per cent. and that on agriculture and sanitary improvements 3 per cent. of the current rent and cess demand of an estate. The total amount spent on improvements was Rs. 1,45,891 or 3·4 per cent. of the current rent and cess demand. During the year the Board instructed Commissioners of Divisions to formulate detailed schemes in consultation with the Director of Agriculture for the demonstration of agricultural improvements in solvent estates. Such schemes have been prepared for some estates and work has already commenced.

Lady Assistant.

65. Miss Cornelia Sorabji, the Lady Assistant to the Court of Wards, again did excellent work in advising the ladies of the zenanas of

Wards Estates and in looking after their well-being and that of the minor wards.

Education of the Wards.

66. The education of the wards continued to receive due attention, and the results attained are on the whole satisfactory. A scheme was formulated for sending some young wards, who were about to attain their majority, to the camps held annually for the training of junior civilians and other officers in survey and settlement work. It is expected that this training will be of great value to them in after-life.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1912-13.]

Bengal Tenancy Act.

67. The Bengal Tenancy Act, in force throughout the Presidency except in the district of Darjeeling, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the town of Calcutta, continued to work smoothly on the whole. Its main provisions are now fairly well known both to landlords and tenants, but the public do not yet realise the importance of all its sections. This is shown by the absence in certain districts of objections to the price-lists of staple food-crops, and of applications for commutation of rent or for registration of improvements.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

68. The relations between landlords and tenants in Birbhum continued to be strained, and the disputes of the *chakdars* and *mandals* in Midnapore are still pending on appeal in the Civil Courts. They had been shown as tenure-holders in the record-of-rights, but claimed the status of occupancy raiyats, which would have had the effect of relegating the tenants under them to the position of under-raiyats or even of mere labourers. There were disputes, since settled, between *jotdars* and *bargadars* in Pabna, and also between some landlords and tenants in the districts of Dinajpur, Malda and Tippera. There was also some misunderstanding between landlords and tenants in the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad and Khulna districts. The Collecter of Rajshahi reports that the tenants are becoming more and more conscious of their rights under the Bengal Tenancy Act, and that there is a growing tendency among them to resist the illegal demands of the landlords, particularly in view of the commencement of settlement operations in the district. The Commissioner of the Dacca Division remarks that the record-of-rights is becoming more and more the "peoples' charter."

Rent-receipts.

69. The provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act as regards the issue of rent-receipts are not properly observed by all landlords. Out of 81 cases of failure to grant rent-receipts under section 58 of the Act, only 23 ended in conviction of the defaulting landlords. Of the others, 34 were struck off, 1 was amicably settled and 23 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of cases, however, in respect of which proceedings are taken by Collectors is not a true index of the extent to which the law in this respect is violated, for there are indications that many such infringements of the law do not come to their notice at all.

Illegal Cesses.

70. The practice of levying *abwabs*, or illegal cesses, over and above the rent is still prevalent, more or less, throughout the Presidency. The illegal exaction from the tenants of road and public works cesses at more than the legal rate of half-an-anna in the rupee still continues in Dacca, Faridpur and Malda and probably in most other districts. But a tendency to resist these demands is growing up amongst the tenants and the record-of-rights is having good effects in restricting the levy of *abwabs*, and particularly in reducing the road cess to the legal sum.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authorities.

The Legislative Council of the Governor of Bengal.

71. In continuation of paragraph 343 on page 153 of the Report on the Administration of Bengal for the year 1911-12, it may be noted that the new Presidency of Fort William in Bengal was formed on and from the 1st April, 1912, by Proclamation dated the 22nd March, 1912, and that a Governor was duly appointed for that Presidency.

It may be also recorded, with reference to the same paragraph, that—

(*a*) a Legislative Council for the new Presidency of Bengal was constituted, and assembled for its first meeting on the 18th January, 1913,

(*b*) new rules for the conduct of legislative business in that Council were published, dated the 25th December, 1912, issued under section 37 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861 (24 & 25 Vict., c. 67), as applied to the Governor in Council of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal by section 1 (1) of the Government of India Act, 1912 (2 & 3 Geo. 5, c. 6),

(*c*) new rules for the discussion of the Annual Financial Statement, and of matters of general public interest, and for the asking of questions were promulgated under section 5 of the Indian Councils Act, 1909 (9 Edw. 7, c. 4), being dated respectively, the 10th December, 1912, and the 17th December, 1912, and

(*d*) new regulations for the nomination and election of additional members of the Council were made and published, dated the 21st November, 1912, issued under section 6 of the Indian Councils Act, 1909 (9 Edw. 7, c. 4). The number of elected members was raised from 26 to 28, a corresponding reduction, viz., from 22 to 20, being made in the number to be nominated by the Governor.

Certain changes were made in the representation of certain electorates. These changes are briefly as follows:—

(*i*) The landlords of the Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions formerly elected one member alternately, and the Chittagong Division elected a member alternately with the Surma Valley Division. The four divisions, Presidency, Burdwan, Dacca, and Rajshahi, now elect one member each. The municipalities of the Chittagong Division and the landlords of that Division now elect one member alternately.

(*ii*) An extra seat has been given to the municipalities in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions alternately, and an elective seat, for which any one resident in the city may stand, has been given to the non-official Commissioners of the Calcutta Corporation.

(*iii*) Members of Local Boards now vote along with the non-official members of District Boards. The qualifications of landlords in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions have been lowered and the special franchise for Muhammadans has been extended.

(*iv*) Government servants are now expressly excluded from standing as candidates. No separate qualifications are prescribed for Muhammadan candidates in their special electorates. Direct voting has been substituted for voting through delegates in the case of elections by Local Boards and Muhammadans.

Course of Legislation.

Period of legislative inactivity.

72. During the period between the 1st April, 1912, the date on which the new Presidency of Fort William in Bengal came into existence, and the 18th January, 1913, the date when the new Legislative Council held its first meeting under the Presidentship of His Excellency the Governor, the legislative powers of the Bengal Legislative Council were in abeyance.

Acts passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during 1912-13.

73. The following three Acts were passed by the new Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1912-13, and became law shortly after the close of that year, namely :—

(*1*) *Bengal Act I of 1913* [*The Calcutta Burial Board's* (*Amendment*) *Act, 1913*].—The object of this Act was, by amending section 14 of the Calcutta Burial Board's Act, 1889 (Bengal Act IV of 1889), to authorize the appointment of separate Burial Boards in Calcutta for any community other than the Christian and Muhammadan communities.

(*2*) *Bengal Act II of 1913* [*The Bengal Board of Revenue Act, 1913*].—The main object of this Act was to reduce the number of permanent Members of the Bengal Board of Revenue from two to one. Power is, however, given to appoint a temporary additional Member, with the sanction of the Government of India, whenever it may be necessary to do so.

(*3*) *Bengal Act III of 1913* [*The Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act, 1913*].—The objects of this Act were—

(*i*) to remove doubts as to the interpretation of certain provisions of the Public Demands Recovery Act, 1895 (Bengal Act I of 1895) ;

(*ii*) to remedy certain anomalies which came to notice in the administration of that Act, and to add certain necessary provisions ; and

(*iii*) to consolidate the law and render the new Act self-contained and readily intelligible.

Bill pending during 1912-13.

74. The following Bill was under consideration by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1912-13, and was passed by that Council and became law shortly after the close of that year, namely :—

The Bengal Public Gambling (*Amendment*) *Bill, 1913.*—This Bill was introduced in Council on the 17th March, 1913, and was passed on the 2nd April, 1913, being now Bengal Act IV of 1913. This Act extends the meaning of the word "gaming" in the three marginally noted Acts in force in Bengal relating to public gambling, so as to make the Acts applicable to "cotton figure" and other forms of public gambling which cause serious evils. An exception is made, however, in respect of wagering or betting upon race-horses effected on the actual day of a race and within an authorised enclosure.

Act XXI of 1857, Bengal Act IV of 1866, Bengal Act II of 1867.

Bills introduced during the year 1912-13, and still pending.

75. Two Bills were introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council towards the close of the year 1912-13, namely :—

(*a*) *the Calcutta Municipal Loans Bill, 1913*, which is designed to amend the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899 (Bengal Act III of 1899), relating to loans, and

(*b*) *the Bengal Municipal* (*Sanitary Officers*) *Bill, 1913*, the object of which is to amend the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884 (Bengal Act III of 1884), in order to provide for the appointment of sanitary officers in municipalities in the mufassal.

These two Bills passed into law during the cold weather session of 1913-14.

Police.

[The Report on the Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency for 1912. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Political Crime.

76. Political offences continued to prevail in parts of Eastern Bengal notably in the Dacca district, and another disquieting feature of the year was the dissemination of literature inciting the murder of Europeans and the overthrow of the British Government. Head-constable Rati Lal Ray, of Dacca, was shot dead in September 1912, by three young men of the *bhadralok* class. This officer had given evidence in the Dacca conspiracy case, and at the time of his assassination was engaged in watching the movements of some suspicious characters. This was followed two months later by the bomb outrage at Midnapore outside the house of Abdur Rahman, the informer in the Midnapore case. This was the only case reported during the year from the Western Bengal districts. Although dacoities committed by persons of the *bhadralok* class decreased by two, the amount stolen (Rs. 61,037), was almost twice as large as that of the preceding year. In one case the villagers attacked the dacoits and wounded three of them, but in no other instance was any opposition offered. With the object of securing the active assistance of those living in rural areas, Government decided to give licenses freely to rich merchants and others who have large interests in the mufassal, on the condition that they employ pensioned up-country sepoys who are not only trained in the use of arms, but are also likely to offer a brave front to dacoits.

An important development took place at Dacca on 27th November, when the police as the result of a search, seized certain documents, which clearly indicated the existence in Eastern Bengal of an active and dangerous society imbued with advanced revolutionary ideas. The methods by which the conspirators hope to achieve their object, include the assassination of Police officers, the "removal" of any member of the society who may betray them, the murder of any person who assists Government, the procuring of arms, the commission of dacoities in order to obtain funds, and the winning of recruits for their cause by tampering with the loyalty of the students in schools and colleges. The measures to be taken to meet this situation continued to engage the anxious consideration of Government.

Ordinary Crime.

77. The total number of true cases under the more serious heads showed a slight increase. There were fewer cases of rioting and dacoity, though rioting continued to prevail in the Dacca Division: the increase was most marked under the heads of burglary and theft, chiefly in the districts of Howrah and Tippera. The most satisfactory feature of the year was the substantial reduction of the number of dacoities. More regular river patrolling led to a decrease in Bakarganj and Tippera, while Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Dinajpur also showed noticeable diminutions. In the districts adjacent to Calcutta, dacoities are still numerous; but the problem of the prevention and detection of dacoities in the metropolitan area presents special difficulties owing to the proximity of Calcutta, to the great facilities open to criminals for rapid travelling, and to the presence of an enormous mill population, the criminal members of which cannot without great difficulty be subjected to effective surveillance. The figures for 1912, the lowest since 1905, indicate a check on the tendency of this crime to increase.

General condition of the Police.

78. There were nearly 800 vacancies in the rank of constables and in every district the ordinary reserves were inadequate. Consequently leave had to be curtailed, and men unfit for duty could not be replaced. Men of the armed reserve were employed on miscellaneous duties, which considerably impaired their efficiency. The general health of the force during the year was not good; admissions to hospital increased from 40·7 per cent. to 47·4. Discontent in the force was reflected in the increasing number of men who resigned or were discharged. Though the recruiting allowance of Rs. 6-8 is now given in all districts of the Presidency, there was serious difficulty in securing recruits, especially local recruits of a suitable class. The chief causes for

this are the inadequacy of the pay and the difficulty in obtaining leave. Proposals for making the service more attractive by increasing the pay of the rank and file and by the grant of certain concessions, and a scheme for the separation of the armed and unarmed branches of the force and for giving the former a higher rate of pay, were under the consideration of Government. The most pressing of these reforms, however, is the necessity for increasing the pay of the constables, and this matter has since been referred to the Government of India.

A large sum was sanctioned by Government for the construction and repair of buildings and the total expenditure was over Rs. 9 lakhs. The progress made was satisfactory but a large proportion of the force is still housed in very unsuitable buildings.

Charges against the Police.

79. Including cases pending from 1911, 361 criminal charges were preferred against the police as against 247 in the preceding year. The 337 charges disposed of included 17 of torture, 66 of extortion, and 24 of bribery. The result was the conviction of 3 constables for torture, 2 Sub-Inspectors and 5 constables for extortion, 1 Head-constable and 3 constables for bribery, and 1 Sub-Inspector, 1 Head-constable and 42 constables for other offences, such as assault and wrongful confinement. Out of the 337 cases, 279 were unsubstantiated. Complainants were prosecuted under section 211 of the Indian Penal Code in 18 cases; ten cases were disposed of, and seven ended in conviction. Forty civil suits were instituted against the police; of these 20 were dismissed, four were decided against the officers concerned, and 16 remained pending at the close of the year. In accordance with standing orders, all serious charges of ill-treatment or torture were reported to Government. The number of cases so reported was 62, of which 50 were complaints preferred before the criminal Courts. Seven of these ended in acquittal, seven were compromised, 22 dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, and 14 ended in conviction, but in one of these fourteen cases the two constables concerned were acquitted on appeal. Even in the cases which were dismissed or compromised, departmental action was taken whenever there were any indications that the officers or men concerned were guilty of misdemeanour.

Civil Police.

80. The cadres of officers and men were reconstituted and the different practices and rules in force in the two parts of the Province were assimilated. The Intelligence Branch was reconstituted and amalgamated with the Criminal Investigation Department at a considerable reduction of cost, and Intelligence officers were attached to certain districts under the control of Superintendents of Police. At the close of the year, Government sanctioned the opening of a new school for the training of constables at Dacca, and of a similar school to be combined with the Police Training College at Sarda. The system of despatching "Special Police" telegrams was extended to the Western Bengal districts, and as an experimental measure the rural police were empowered to send "bearing" messages. The question of the more extensive use of the telegraph for the prevention and detection of crime is constantly under consideration. Considerable progress was made towards completing the reorganization of the subordinate police force in the Eastern Bengal districts, under the scheme sanctioned by the Secretary of State, and detailed proposals involving an increase of 466 subordinate officers and men were sanctioned by Government. Six new investigating centres were established; in several places the town police was reconstituted, and effect was given to the scheme for deputing police to watch criminals at railway and steamer stations. The station boats in the Faridpur and Dacca districts were again maintained, and the establishment of similar boats in other districts was sanctioned. These measures led to a material decrease in river crime. Special steps were taken during the year to insure the efficiency of Circle Inspectors, a most important branch of the supervising staff. A high standard was fixed under which Sub-Inspectors were selected for promotion as Inspectors; Inspectors were held strictly responsible for the control of all crime within their several circles, and during the year persistent and successful efforts were made to improve existing conditions by personal appeals and instructions conveyed at the time of inspection.

Military Police.

81. The general efficiency of the battalion improved to a marked extent during the year and the health of the men was satisfactory. Considerable progress was made towards providing better accommodation in the military police lines at Dacca, where three companies have moved into new and commodious barracks. A scheme was prepared for the reorganization of the military police establishment of the Presidency.

River Police.

82. Under the river police scheme mentioned in the last Bengal Administration Report, the establishment of four river police divisions with 27 police stations is contemplated. Provision was made during the year for the policing of the Meghna from Sunamganj in Sylhet to Narayanganj. The whole division was placed under the charge of an Inspector and at Narayanganj and six other places floating police stations were established, with light boats for patrolling purposes. Only three launches were available during the year for patrol duty. The Ganges division was opened recently; but the completion of the remaining two divisions is delayed owing to the want of men. The scale of pay is insufficient to attract local men of the boatman class, who would form the most suitable material, and repeated efforts to secure men of a similar type from the United Provinces have ended in failure. Fifty-seven constables were recruited during the year; but since then nearly 100 of the 200 sanctioned constables have been obtained. During the last three years the experiment has been made of attaching station boats to certain thanas on the smaller rivers of the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. The experiment has proved successful; and it is contemplated ultimately to link up the river police patrols with the station boat patrols, and by the close co-operation of the two branches to control the waterways of Eastern Bengal. So far no river dacoities have been reported from the area covered by the patrols, and thefts have decreased.

Rural Police.

83. Mr. J. N. Gupta, I.C.S., was placed on special duty to supervise chaukidari matters, and circle officers were appointed in seven subdivisions of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions and in six subdivisions of the Eastern Bengal districts. Mr. E. G. Hart, Superintendent of Police, was also placed on special duty with instructions to co-operate with Mr. Gupta, and to examine in particular the work of village chaukidari patrols. The results of the experience gained and the lines of future development were considered by a Committee which agreed that the rates of pay at present paid to chaukidars and daffadars require to be increased. It was thought that a rate of pay of Rs. 6 to Rs. 12, differing in different parts of the Presidency, would attract suitable whole-time chaukidars. But without an amendment of the Bengal Chaukidari Act [Act VI (B.C.) of 1870] it is not legal to pay at a higher rate than Rs. 6 per chaukidar. It was considered that a rate of Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 would be sufficient to attract efficient and whole-time men as daffadars, and that local men should be chosen, provided that they were qualified. The whole subject, along with several other problems connected with the working of the chaukidari panchayati system, is now under examination.

Mortality caused by wild animals and venomous snakes.

[Report on the above and the measures taken for their destruction during the year 1912. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Wild animals.

84. The number of persons killed by wild animals fell to 408 from 431 in the previous year. Deaths caused by tigers also decreased slightly from 139 to 117. The decrease in Chittagong, where the number fell from 13 to 5, is ascribed to the destruction of a man-eating tiger near Feni.

Snakes.

85. The number of persons killed by snakes was 4,471 against 5,089 in 1911. In the Dacca Division, where the decrease was greatest, it is attributed to the absence of high floods which usually drive snakes to take shelter in houses.

Cattle killed by wild animals.

86. Wild animals killed 4,950 head of cattle and snakes 276 as against 4,648 and 161, respectively, in the preceding year.

Destruction of wild animals and snakes.

87. During the year, 2,112 wild animals were destroyed, against 1,957 in the preceding year. The numbers of leopards and wolves killed decreased

from 360 and 31 to 327 and 18, respectively, but 12,674 snakes were destroyed as against 11,960 in 1911-12.

The rewards paid for the destruction of wild animals and snakes were Rs. 13,287 and Rs. 190, respectively, the corresponding figures for 1911 were Rs. 12,660 and Rs. 197.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[Annual Report on the Police Administration of the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1912.—Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Administration.

88. The complete scheme for the reorganization of the Calcutta Police was introduced from the 2nd November 1912; the three Town and the two Suburban Police Divisions were amalgamated and formed into four divisional charges, of which three were placed under Deputy Commissioners of Police, and one under a Superintendent. The charge of the combined Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Branch was held by another Deputy Commissioner.

Discipline and recruits.

89. The number of judicial convictions of members of the force rose from 39 to 41 and the offences were also of a graver nature than in the preceding year; but an increase in the number of dismissals from 40 to 81 was more than counterbalanced by a decrease in other departmental punishments. The incremental pay for constables sanctioned during the year had the effect of reducing the number of resignations for the time being; fewer constables, too, deserted or were discharged. At the same time only 544 recruits were enlisted as compared with 639 in the previous year, and the arrangements for recruitment and training were still unsatisfactory, since the Constables' Training School at Nathnagore ceased recruiting for the Calcutta Police. A scheme for a separate training school for Calcutta was laid before Government. It was proposed to locate the school in the Dullunda buildings, at present occupied by the Bengal Forms Department.

Juvenile offenders.

90. During the year the Commissioner of Police and Mr. H. P. Duval, I.C.S., submitted to Government their recommendations as to the procedure to be adopted by the Police and Courts in cases involving juvenile offenders, together with a draft Bill to carry them into effect. A Committee was appointed to consider the draft Bill and to report on the possibility of starting industrial schools, appointing probationary officers, and giving effect generally to the provisions of such a Bill. As the proposals were far-reaching and would need a large measure of public support, it was directed that they should be subjected to further scrutiny by a larger and more representative Committee.

Sibpur disaster.

91. On the 19th November 1912, a disaster occurred at the Sibpur Ferry Steamer Ghât where a *dinghi* boat was capsized, with the loss of 11 lives. A Committee was appointed by Government to enquire into the circumstances and to suggest practical measures for remedying the defects in the existing arrangements. Since the close of the year the Commissioner of Police in consultation with the Port Commissioners has effected considerable improvements.

Crime.

92. There was a remarkable increase of 31,327 in the number of cognizable cases, chiefly due to prosecutions under the traffic regulations. The figures for road obstruction cases in Calcutta and its suburbs rose from 6,608 in 1908 to 24,564 in 1912. Although the police made good use of the extended powers given by the Calcutta and Suburban Police Amendment Act (III of 1910) for the regulation of nuisances and obstructions, yet it appears that criminal prosecutions have failed so far to meet the situation; and it may be that the present trade conditions make road obstruction inevitable in spite of the existing laws.

Greater activity was shown in prosecuting for offences under the Motor-car Act and Statutory Rules. The number of deaths caused by motor-cars and cycles increased, but there was a gratifying decrease in the total number of persons killed and injured in conveyance accidents.

Cotton gambling.

93. During the year the craze for gambling on cotton figures increased to such an extent as to become a public menace. An ordinance was issued

in December, 1912, which effectively stopped the evil for a time. Subsequently legislation was undertaken to deal with this and other forms of gambling.

94. Mr. B. A. Westbrook, the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, arrived from England and took charge of the Brigade on the 10th February, 1912. His report on the reorganization of the Brigade was considered by a Committee appointed for that purpose; and the proposals of the Committee for such reorganization and for the establishment of a central fire station and outstations are now under the consideration of Government. **Fire Brigade.**

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Presidency of Bengal for 1912. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

95. By a notification of the Government of India, in the Home Department, dated the 22nd March 1912, the criminal districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Rajshahi, Malda, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Pabna, Bogra, Tippera, Noakhali and Chittagong, which had been included in the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and also the criminal district of Darjeeling which had formed part of the sessions division of Purnea, were made subject to the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, with effect from the 1st April 1912. The criminal districts which now form the Presidency of Bengal are Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore, Hooghly, Howrah, the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Jessore, Khulna and those named above. As a result of the redistribution of territories the districts of Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling were formed into a new sessions division, styled the Dinajpur-Darjeeling Sessions Division, with its head-quarters at the station of Dinajpur. **Changes in Jurisdiction.**

96. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 5 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Six Subordinate Judges, vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge, were employed in six districts, where they decided 14, 7, 6, 2, 1 and 1 cases, respectively. Besides the above, temporary Additional Sessions Judges were employed during the year in the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, Hooghly, Jessore and the 24-Parganas. **Judicial Staff.**

The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 364 stipendiary and 844 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent an increase of 25 and a decrease of 1, respectively, on those of the previous year. Three special Magistrates were employed in Jessore, Khulna and Noakhali, and decided 96 cases. Of the 364 stipendiary Magistrates, 251 exercised first, 78 second, and 35 third-class powers. There were 131 Benches of Magistrates constituted from among 790 Honorary Magistrates in the mufassal. Of these, 118 were independent, and 13 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

97. There were 333,069 criminal offences reported during the year, an increase of 43,978 on the figures of 1911. Of the total, 173,983 were under the Indian Penal Code and 159,086 under special and local laws. These totals exceed those of 1911 by 1,451 and 42,523, respectively. The increase under both heads was most marked in Pabna, followed by Dacca, Rangpur and Howrah as regards offences under the Penal Code and by the Presidency town and the 24-Parganas as regards offences under special and local laws. **Offences reported.**

98. The number of complaints dismissed and cases found to be false was 62,999, or 18·9 per cent. of the number reported during the year. These figures include cases pending inquiry at the close of 1911. The percentage for the preceding year was 20·3. Complaints were dismissed in 56,625 cases, or 3,678 more than in 1911. The cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry numbered 6,374, or 484 more than in 1911. **False cases.**

99. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 269,372 were found to be true, and of these 229,832 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 14,574 cases. Compared with 1911, the numbers of cases found to be true and of cases brought to trial show an increase of 39,644 and 40,622, respectively. **True cases.**

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Magistrates' Courts.

Total cases for trial.

100. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 102,756 were in the courts of the Police and Municipal Magistrates in the Presidency town, and 127,076 in the courts of Magistrates in the mufassal.

(A) Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta.—Cases for trial.

101. The number of cases brought before Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrate, was greater by 30,862 than in 1911. The number of cases under special and local laws rose from 59,083 to 92,820, while cases under the Penal Code fell from 12,811 to 9,936. The increase under the former head was most marked for offences under the Police Act, which rose from 25,165 to 55,798. The number of offences under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals also rose from 10,580 to 12,745. As regards offences under the Penal Code, those affecting the public health, safety, etc., fell from 8,316 to 5,451. Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, disposed of 85,262 cases, of which 79,552 were before stipendiary Magistrates, 5,640 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 70 before Benches. In 1911 the same officers disposed of 53,793 cases, of which 50,680 were before stipendiary Magistrates, 3,073 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 40 before Benches. One hundred and forty-four cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of 109 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by Magistrates, 566 under ordinary, and the remainder under summary procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the Police Magistrates rose from 15,919 to 21,845. The number of cases brought before the court of the Municipal Magistrate was 17,443, of which 16,127 were cases under the Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 17,439, of which 16,699 were decided under the summary procedure; and 5 cases remained pending at the close of the year. Compared with 1911, the number of cases instituted and disposed of show a decrease of 692 and 696, respectively.

Results of trials.

102. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, was 90,062. Of the persons tried 11,229 were acquitted or discharged, 78,519 were convicted, 6 died, 109 were committed to the sessions, and 199 remained under trial at the close of the year. The cases against 8,481 persons acquitted or discharged were compounded, withdrawn, or dismissed for default. Of persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 7,127 were convicted and 3,720 acquitted or discharged. The results of trials before each class of Magistrates during the year are shown below :—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.
Stipendiary Magistrates ...	10,465	73,500	87·5
Benches of Magistrates ...	53	25	32·0
Honorary Magistrates sitting singly.	711	4,994	87·5

Of the persons convicted 1,937 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 5 persons the sentence included terms of solitary confinement; 296 were punished with simple imprisonment, 72,262 with fine, and 387 with whipping. One hundred and thirty-eight of the persons sentenced to fine and 2 of those sentenced to whipping were sentenced to additional punishments. Seven sentences of imprisonment were, in the case of youthful offenders, commuted to detention in a Reformatory school. Two thousand nine hundred and ninety-four convicted persons were warned and discharged. In addition 361 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, and 346 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year; 53 persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace; 101 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under special laws in the case of 300 persons.

The number of persons released upon probation of good conduct shows an increase of 39.

Before the Municipal Magistrate 20,083 persons were under trial, of whom 19,496 were convicted, 581 were acquitted or discharged, 1 died, and 5 remained under trial at the close of the year. The number of witnesses examined was 4,957, or 295 less than in 1911. The percentage of convictions was 97·1. Of the persons convicted, 14,061 were punished with fines, and the others were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and bye-laws of the Corporation.

(B) Magistrates outside Calcutta. Cases for trial.

103. At the opening of the year 4,401 cases, besides cases of lunatics, were pending before Magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year 127,132 cases were brought to trial, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, 126,638 were disposed of, and 4,845 remained pending at its close. The cases brought to trial were more than in 1911 by 9,816. Under the Indian Penal Code the increase was chiefly in offences affecting the human body (2,155). On the other hand, the decrease was most marked in offences affecting the public health (1,644). There was a large increase in cases under special and local laws. An increase in the number of cases instituted is reported from 19, and a decrease from 7 districts. The increase was most marked in the 24-Parganas (5,925), Tippera (763), Pabna (656), Howrah (623), and Rangpur (541); while the decrease was greatest in Midnapore (684), Murshidabad (566), and Burdwan (337). In the 24-Parganas the increase was under special and local laws, and was most marked in offences under the Police Act.

The disposals were distributed as follows :—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	2,166	540
Subordinate stipendiary Magistrates ...	67,524	37,217
Honorary Magistrates	9,157	1,157
Benches of Magistrates	4,273	4,449
Special Magistrates	96	...

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 59 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The number of cases decided during the year was more than the number decided in 1911 by 9,600. The courts of subordinate stipendiary Magistrates, District Magistrates and special Magistrates were responsible for the increase.

Results of trials.

104. Of the total number of cases brought to trial 1,171 were committed or referred to the sessions, and 125,467 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In these latter 173,359 persons were accused, *i.e.*, 11,160 more than in 1911. Of the total 92,680 were convicted or 53·4 per cent., as compared with 53·2 per cent. in 1911, and 80,679 or 46·6 per cent. were acquitted or discharged. Of these latter cases 41,748 were compounded, withdrawn, or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried was 70·4. Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code 33,836, or 33·8 per cent., were convicted, and 66,244, or 66·2 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. Of the latter cases 37,496 were compounded, withdrawn, or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried under the Penal Code was 54. The total number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of 1912 was 9,198, as compared with 7,686 in 1911. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 489, against 412 in 1911.

The general result of trials before Magistrates of each class was as follows :—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Benches of Magistrates ...	4,247	6,231	59·4
Subordinate stipendiary Magistrates.	65,191	79,314	54·8
Honorary Magistrates	8,093	5,998	42·5
Special Magistrates	85	41	32·5
District Magistrates	3,063	1,096	26·3

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows :—

	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On regular trial	36,115	12,218
On summary trial	3,771	40,576

Punishments.

105. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows :—

Imprisonment ...	Rigorous	13,884
	Simple	685
Fine	With imprisonment ...	2,283
	Without imprisonment ...	71,326
Whipping ...	Sole punishment	287
	Additional punishment ...	12

A term of solitary confinement was included in 135 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 37 youthful offenders the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to one of detention in a reformatory school. One thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, of whom 1,846 failed to comply and were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, not exceeding one year. Three hundred and eighty-two persons, against 375 in 1911, were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Against persons who had previously been so released proceedings were subsequently taken in 25 cases, and of the 27 persons involved 25 were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 5,376 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, 1,376 on conviction of offences involving a breach of the peace. Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed 2,746 were for terms not exceeding 15 days, 9,812 for terms not exceeding 6 months, 3,784 for terms not exceeding 2 years. and 36 for terms exceeding 2 years. Sentences of whipping were passed on 299 persons, as against 392 in the preceding year. The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 6,23,368, realizations to Rs. 5,70,688, and sums paid as compensation to complainants to Rs. 79,861.

Miscellaneous proceedings. Code of Criminal Procedure. Chapter VIII.

106. There were 2,703 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 11,807 persons were involved. The cases and the persons involved were more numerous than in 1911. Of the persons concerned 4,000 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Mymensingh (2,435), Bakarganj (1,255), Khulna (1,254), and Jessore (1,245). The increase in such proceedings over those of 1911 was marked in Mymensingh, Pabna and Jessore. In 1,133 cases, 2,651 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 2,163. Of these, 2,007 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 161 after reference to the courts of session under section 123 of the Code, and 1,846 under orders of Magistrates for terms not exceeding one year.

Chapters X, XII and XXXVI.

107. Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 610 cases, and in the cases of 168 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases decided by Magistrates, under Chapter XII of the Code, involving questions of the possession of land, was 1,970, an increase of 404 on the figures for 1911. Under section 250 of the Code, 619 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons for frivolous or vexatious accusations. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 809 persons, and orders were made absolute against 242.

Witnesses.

108. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of Magistrates in the mufassal was 342,776 as compared with 334,122 in 1911. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 162,812, or 32·2 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year

the percentage was 30·1. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 1,11,448 in 1911 to Rs. 1,15,081 in 1912. Of the total number in attendance 366,823 (72·6 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 96,996 (19·2 per cent.) on the second, 29,889 (5·9 per cent.) on the third, and 11,880 (2·3 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 2,818 more than in 1911; on the other hand, the number of witnesses examined was larger.

II.—Courts of Session.

Commitments.

109. The number of cases committed for trial or referred to these courts during the year was 1,171, or 52 more than in 1911; and the number decided, inclusive of pending cases of the previous year, was 1,147, or 7 more than in 1911. There were 157 cases pending at the close of the year. Commitments increased in 15 districts and decreased in 11. The increase was marked in the following districts:—In Dacca from 67 to 89, in Nadia from 26 to 45, in Rangpur from 25 to 44, in Hooghly from 32 to 47, in Bakarganj from 120 to 135, and in Burdwan from 26 to 37. The number of commitments was largest in Mymensingh (161).

Results of trials.

110. There were 2,657 persons, or 311 less than in 1911, under trial before courts of session. The cases of 2,313 persons were decided, and 337 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 2,313 persons tried, 1,344, or 58·1 per cent., were convicted and 913 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 55 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

111. The following sentences were passed by the courts of session during the year:—

Death ...	...	20
Transportation ...	for life ...	83
	for a term of years ...	69
Imprisonment ...	rigorous ...	1,008
	simple ...	6
Fine ...	...	34
Whipping	...	3

In the cases of 34 out of the 1,008 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement; and in those of 3 youthful offenders the sentences of imprisonment were commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Twenty-five of the sentences of fine were additional punishments. Besides the above, 161 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (8 for terms not exceeding one year and 153 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour; and 33 persons, who had been convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace, were required to execute bonds with sureties to keep the peace, in addition to their substantive punishment.

Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

Not exceeding	15 days ...	7
	6 months ...	99
	2 years ...	323
	7 „ ...	697
Exceeding ...	7 „ ...	46

Fines to the amount of Rs. 5,470 were imposed by courts of session, as compared with Rs. 5,400 imposed in the preceding year. The total realizations of the year aggregated Rs. 1,633, as compared with Rs. 2,499 in 1911. The amount of fines realized and paid as compensation to complainants was Rs. 37 in 1912, as compared with Rs. 870 in 1911.

Jury trials.

112. The number of persons tried by jury was 1,038, and the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 884 such persons and disapproved of it in respect of 154. The Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict of the jury in regard to 35 persons, and referred the

cases to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given under the head "Superintendence, reference, and revision."

Trials with the aid of Assessors.

113. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 932 and in the case of 699 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the assessors; in the case of 104 he differed from the opinion of one; and in the case of 129 he differed from the opinion of both the assessors. The corresponding figures of 1911 were 1,139, 734, 156 and 249, respectively.

Duration of cases.

114. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, fell from 43·3 days in 1911 to 38·8 days in 1912. The reduction is satisfactory. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration. The duration of cases was notably high in the districts of Burdwan (59·1 days), Howrah (55·6 days), the 24-Parganas (47·1 days), and Birbhum (45·7 days); but in each of these districts the results show an appreciable improvement on those of the previous year. The increase in the duration of cases from 21·9 days to 33·3 days in Noakhali, from 26·9 days to 38 days in Rangpur, and from 27·3 days to 37·6 days in Nadia is noticeable; but there was a marked reduction from 80·2 days to 45·7 days in Birbhum and from 68·3 days to 37·6 days in Dacca.

Witnesses.

115. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 20,753. Of these 11,504 were examined and 9,249 discharged without examination. In 1911 the corresponding figures were 14,034 and 9,382, respectively. Of the total number in attendance 9,101 (43·9 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 6,362 (30·6 per cent.) on the second day, 2,983 (14·4 per cent.) on the third day, and 2,307 (11·1 per cent.) after the third day. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day is smaller than in 1911 (13·9 per cent.). The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 56,921 as compared with Rs. 64,813 in 1911.

Commitments, etc., to the High Court.

116. In the High Court 16 cases were pending from 1911 and 79 cases were brought to trial during the year. Of these, 91, including two cases of European British subjects committed from Burdwan and the 24-Parganas were tried during the year, and 4 remained undecided at its close. Altogether 123 persons were tried, of whom 81 were convicted and 42 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 787, and the average duration of cases from commitment was 37·7 days, against 28·8 days in 1911.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals.

117. At the opening of 1912 there were 69 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of criminal courts. During the year 624 appeals were preferred and 665 were decided, leaving 27 pending. One appeal abated on the death of the appellant. The numbers preferred and decided show a decrease of 15 and an increase of 43, respectively, as compared with 1911. The pending file shows a decrease of 42. Of the appeals against sentences preferred, 492 were from courts of session and 126 were from Presidency Magistrates. Six appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal.

Result of appeals.

118. Five hundred and twenty-seven appeals against sentences of courts of session were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 427 instances, reversed in 31, and modified in 64. Five cases were remanded for retrial. One hundred and thirty-two appeals from the orders of Magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being affirmed in 124 cases, and modified and reversed in 4 each. As a result the appeals of 666 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and in admitted appeals sentences were confirmed on 220 appellants, enhanced on 2, reduced or altered on 95, and annulled on 94. In the cases of 17 a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

Appeals against acquittals.

119. Six appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided. Of these 3 were against orders of acquittal passed by Sessions Judges, 2 against orders of acquittal passed by Deputy Magistrates in the mufassal, and 1 against an order of acquittal passed by a Presidency Magistrate. Of the 3 appeals against the orders of Sessions Judges, 2 were dismissed by the High Court ; in the other case a further inquiry was ordered. In one of the remaining 3 cases, the appeal was dismissed, and the other 2 cases were remanded for retrial.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

120. There were 166 appeals pending before the courts of session at the opening of the year. During the year 3,503 appeals were preferred, 3,474 were decided, and 198 remained pending at its close. The number of appeals preferred was 148 more than in 1911. In the appeals decided 5,846 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,237 of these, or 21·1 per cent., were summarily dismissed ; 2,310 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful ; 961 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence, and 1,249 were acquitted ; in the cases of 88 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. The case of 1 person was referred to the High Court.

Magistrates' Courts.

121. In the courts of Magistrates 197 appeals were pending at the opening of the year. During the year 3,537 appeals were preferred, 3,585 were decided, and 149 remained pending at its close. The number preferred was 61 less than in 1911. The number of persons whose appeals were decided by courts of Magistrates was 5,902. Of these, the appeals of 1,068 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 2,336, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 3,404 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 57·6 per cent. Of the remainder, 864 appellants, or 14·6 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,560, or 26·4 per cent., their total annulment. In the case of 71 appellants a new trial or further inquiry was ordered, and three cases were referred to the High Court. Compared with 1911 the results were more favourable to appellants.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure.

122. Three references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 25 were made during the year. Twenty-two of these references were decided during the year and 6 remained undecided at its close. The result of the 22 cases disposed of was that the verdict of the jury was accepted in 7 cases, set aside in 13, and modified in 2.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

123. Fifteen references were made to the High Court under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences and 2 were pending before the Court at the opening of the year. Fifteen were decided during the year, in these 20 persons were concerned : the death sentences on 13 were confirmed, and 7 persons were acquitted.

Revision.

124. During the year, 178 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and 15 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these, 182 were decided and 11 remained pending. The number reported was 20 more than in 1911. In 84 cases the orders sent up for revision were set aside, or the proceedings quashed, and in 27 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 25 cases and enhanced in 1. In the remaining 45 cases the High Court declined to interfere. Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure orders were passed in 1,175 cases, an increase of 166 on the figures of the previous year. Of these, 1,174 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 1 was taken up on review of a sessions statement. Of the applications for the

issue of rules 701 were rejected. Of 473 rules issued, 132 were finally discharged, 180 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 70 cases and quashed in 17; in 2 cases the sentence was enhanced; in 61 cases a new trial was ordered; and in 11 cases orders were passed for transfer to other courts for trial. One case was taken up by the High Court on review of a sessions statement; the order passed by the lower court was not disturbed.

Applications for transfer.

125. Seventy-two applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases (65 original cases and 7 appeals) from one court or district to another were on the files; 65 were disposed of; and 7 remained pending at the close of the year. Thirty-three were summarily rejected, and in 6 cases transfers were granted without the issue of a rule. In 26 cases rules were issued, with the result that transfers were granted in 16 and refused in 10 cases.

II.—Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

126. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the courts of Magistrates, and accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 7,410 persons were decided on revision by courts of session during the year. The number exceeded that of 1911 by 149. The applications of 3,001 persons were rejected, and as regards 1,938, the orders of the lower court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 83 persons were reversed; in 9 instances proceedings were quashed; and the order of the lower court was modified in the cases of 21 persons. The cases of 281 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 2,077 persons new trials or further inquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' Courts.

127. The cases of 3,406 accused persons, who applied for revision or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was 1,195 more than in 1911. Of the total applications those of 855 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 1,161 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 77 persons were modified, and those affecting 266 were reversed. In the cases of 76 persons proceedings were quashed, and in those of 944 new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 27 persons were referred to the High Conrt.

III.—General.

Trial of European British subjects.

128. The cases of 48 European British subjects were decided during the year, as against 62 in the previous year. Of these, 43 were dealt with by Magistrates, 2 by courts of session and 3 by the High Court. Of the accused persons, 3 claimed to be tried by a mixed jury. In the cases disposed of by Magistrates, 22 persons were convicted and 21 acquitted. The convictions were in 13 cases for offences under special and local laws; in 4 cases for offences affecting the human body; in 4 cases for offences against property; and in 1 case for contempt of lawful authority of public servants. The 2 persons tried by Sessions Judges were charged with the offences of forgery and rape, respectively; the former was convicted and the latter acquitted. Of the 3 persons tried by the High Court, 2 were committed from the districts of Burdwan and the 24-Parganas on charges of hurt and rape, respectively: both were acquitted. The other accused person—a Sub-Inspector of Police—was committed by the Chief Presidency Magistrate on charges of voluntarily causing hurt to extort confession and abetment of the same (sections 330 and 330—109, Indian Penal Code). The High Court convicted the accused under sections 330—109, Indian Penal Code, and sentenced him to six months' rigorous imprisonment. The largest number of European British subjects was tried in Darjeeling (18).

Results of criminal work.

129. During 1912 there was a general increase upon the previous year in all classes of criminal work disposed of by the lower courts both in the Presidency town and in the mufassal. The increase in the disposal of original work by the Sessions Courts was slight, but appellate and revisional

work increased perceptibly, as compared with the previous year. There was a sensible increase in the number of appeals and applications for revision decided by the High Court. No special Bench was constituted under Act XIV of 1908 during the year, but a Special Criminal Bench, composed of three Judges, was formed to hear an appeal, pending from the previous year, against the order of the Additional Sessions Judge of Dacca, convicting 35 persons of the offence of conspiring to commit certain offences against the State under section 121A of the Indian Penal Code and sentencing 3 persons to transportation for life and the remainder to various terms of imprisonment. The High Court set aside the conviction and sentence of 21 persons, and modified the sentences of the others.

Receipts and charges.

130. As usual a part of the salaries of judicial officers proportionate to the time which their returns show them to have spent on the administration of criminal justice, has been debited to that head. This leaves a total charge of Rs. 26,39,735 for the year. Of this amount, Rs. 15,34,510 represented the salaries of judicial officers, Rs. 1,35,527 fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 72,905 process-servers, Rs. 4,33,843 other establishments, and Rs. 4,62,950 contingencies and refunds. The receipts amounted to Rs. 15,63,504. Of this amount, Rs. 7,50,677 came from fines ; Rs. 1,79,097 from process-fees ; Rs. 1,72,626 from copying and comparing fees ; Rs. 3,81,365 from court-fee stamp receipts other than the above ; and Rs. 79,739 from miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and charges exceeded those of 1911 by over Rs. 79,000 and Rs. 69,000, respectively.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

131. The number of cases brought to trial during 1912 in the scheduled district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 156. The total number of cases disposed of was 145. The number of witnesses examined was 358. The total number of persons under trial, including those awaiting trial from the preceding year, was 244 of whom 107 were acquitted or discharged and 100 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial, 15 were for criminal force and assault, 48 for theft, 18 for criminal trespass, and 24 for offences under special and local laws. The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 24, of whom 10 were wholly or partly successful.

Jails.

(The report on the Administration of the Jail Department in Bengal for the year 1912.—Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial.)

Jail population

132. As in the previous year, one of the noticeable features of the Jail Administration was a further decrease in the daily average strength of the jail population in the Presidency. This is the continued effect of the release of convicts and civil prisoners on the occasion of the celebration of the Imperial Durbar at Delhi on the 12th December, 1911. By the close of the year, however, the number of prisoners in confinement increased by 498 ; while the number of reconvicted prisoners rose from 3,481 to 3,771, with a corresponding increase from 15·5 to 16·3 in the ratio per cent. to the total number of convicts admitted. The number of convicts whipped during the year declined from 85 to 45 and the ratio of whippings to total punishments fell from 0·41 to 0·20.

Health and mortality of prisoners.

133. The statistics of sickness and mortality show that many improvements are needed to bring the jails of the Presidency, and especially the jails of the eastern districts, up to a reasonable standard of good health. The ratio of sickness was higher than it had been during the last four years and the death-rate, though only 21·7 as compared with 25·6 in 1908, was still comparatively high. At the same time it must be remembered that most of the districts comprising the Presidency are very malarious, and a rapid improvement cannot be expected. There was a marked falling off in the

number of admissions and deaths from dysentery; but in many jails in the eastern districts, where the general health is poor, this disease is still a most serious problem. Captain J. Cunningham, I.M.S., an expert bacteriologist, has been appointed to inquire into and report on the prevalence in jails of various types of the disease and to recommend means for its prevention.

Jail manufactures.

134. The disposal of jail manufactures shows some improvement. All sections of the manufacturing department at the Alipore Central Jail were kept busy during the year; and the value of the goods disposed of by the Jail Depôt surpassed all previous records. The work of distributing the quinine products of the Government Cinchona Factory by the Juvenile Jail was continued and 20,000 lbs. were sold. It has been decided to introduce into Bengal the system of distributing quinine in treatment form on the lines formerly in vogue in Eastern Bengal, and arrangements were made by the Inspector-General to have these treatments made up and supplied by the Alipore Central Jail.

Juvenile prisoners.

135. The "Star class" system of dealing with juvenile prisoners in the Juvenile Jail at Alipore has continued to work well. There are no convict officers; all the prisoners are in charge of paid warders, but well-behaved boys are selected to form the "Star class," and when they have continued to behave well in this class, they are made monitors and are then permitted to enjoy certain small but appreciated privileges,—visits from friends, letters and remissions of sentence. In addition, a gratuity is given to each youth on release, calculated on the number of years spent in the "Star class." With a view to provide for the proper treatment of juvenile offenders before conviction, the question of the constitution of a separate children's court for Calcutta has been engaging the attention of Government.

Assistance to Prisoners after release.

136. Government continued to take an active interest in furthering the objects of the Prisoners' Aid Society and have endeavoured, as far as possible, to supply the society with book-binding work from the Bengal Secretariat and Presidency Jail Presses. Negotiations are also in progress for the acquisition, by the Society, of a plot of Government land to enable it to erect a suitable building for book-binding and other work.

Subsidiary Jails.

137. Many of the subsidiary jails are continuously overcrowded, and plans and estimates are under preparation for enlarging several of them to meet present-day needs. Energetic measures have also been taken to introduce a considerable number of sanitary and other improvements, especially in the most unhealthy jails.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal for 1912. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Changes in Jurisdiction.

138. Under the notification of the Government of India in the Home Department, dated the 22nd March 1912, the civil districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Pabna-Bogra, Tippera, Noakhali and Chittagong, which had been included in the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and also the executive district of Darjeeling which had formed part of the judgeship of Purnea, were made subject to the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, with effect from the 1st April 1912. The civil districts which now form the Presidency of Bengal are Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore, Hooghly, the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Jessore, Khulna and those mentioned above.

Judicial Staff.

139. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the province during 1912 consisted of 15 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 5 Additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and 4 Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, 3 Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of Subordinate Judge, 37 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition, 4 executive officers exercised the powers of Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and 1 the powers of Munsif. In pursuance of section 3 of the Indian High Courts Act, 1911 [1 & 2 Geo. 5, cap. (18)], 4 additional Judges were appointed to the High Court for a period of two years, thus raising the total number of Judges to 19.

The following changes in the *personnel* of the High Court took place during the year :—

The Hon'ble Mr. W. Teunon, Mr. Ashutosh Chaudhuri, Mr. Saiyid Hassan Imam, and Mr. T. W. Richardson took their seats as Additional Judges of the High Court, the first three on the 5th February and the last on the 11th March 1912. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Beachcroft and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chapman officiated as Judges of the High Court, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Caspersz and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harington on leave from the 16th and 19th April, respectively, to the 5th September 1912. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Caspersz resigned his office with effect from 17th November 1912. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Beachcroft officiated in that vacancy from the 22nd November. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chapman officiated as a Judge of the High Court, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Woodroffe on leave from the 17th November 1912. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Stephen availed himself of combined leave with effect from the 25th June 1912, and resumed his seat in the High Court on the 18th November 1912.

In addition to the permanent staff, the following temporary appointments in the subordinate courts were sanctioned during the year :—The appointment of a second Additional District Judge for land acquisition work in the 24-Parganas was continued. Temporary Additional District Judges were employed in the following districts :—1 in Dacca, 1 in Mymensingh, 1 in Hooghly, 1 in Jessore, and 2 in the 24-Parganas.

One temporary Additional Subordinate Judge was employed at Midnapore, 1 at Hooghly, 1 at Mymensingh, and 1 at Alipore. Temporary Additional Munsifs were employed at Dacca and Narainganj, at Iswarganj and Jamalpur (Mymensingh), at Chittagong, at Rampur Hât (Birbhum), at Comilla and Chandpur (Tippera), at Ghatal (Midnapore), at Barisal and Patuakhali (Bakarganj), at Asansol (Burdwan), and at Balurghat (Dinajpur).

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits instituted.

140. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1911 was 1,846, including 38 pending suits received by transfer from other courts ; and the number instituted during 1912 was 1,225, including 16 suits received by transfer from other courts and 7 remanded for retrial during the year, making a total of 3,071 for disposal in 1912. Of the suits instituted during 1912, 755 were for money or moveable property, 142 were mortgage suits, and 44 were for immoveable property.

The total of specific money claims was Rs. 79,62,523-2-6, as compared with Rs. 79,72,332-8 in the previous year.

Original suits decided.

141. The number of suits decided in 1912 was 1,284 and the number left undisposed of was 1,787. Suits under trial were 59 fewer than at the commencement of the year. There were 897 suits pending over one year, showing an increase of 15 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided 335 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 35 were withdrawn with leave, 23 were determined by compromise, 134 were decreed on confession, 324 were decreed *ex parte*, 21 were dismissed *ex parte*, 22 were disposed of by reference to arbitration, 274 were decreed after contest, and 116 were dismissed after contest.

Cases under the extraordinary jurisdiction.

142. At the commencement of the year 10 suits were pending in the High Court in its extraordinary original civil jurisdiction, and 1 suit was transferred to it during the year. Of these 7 were disposed of during the year and 4 remained pending at its close.

Probates and letters of administration, etc.

143. 406 petitions for probate and letters of administration were disposed of, as well as 8,811 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, etc.). Of the interlocutory applications, 3,382 for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the

discovery of documents, for special leave to file written statements after time, for citations as to chamber applications, and for processes against witnesses, were disposed of by the Registrar and the Master. The remaining applications (5,429) were disposed of by the Court or a Judge in chambers.

References to take accounts, etc.

144. At the beginning of the year there were pending 175 references to take accounts, to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance, on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, etc. Fresh references were directed by the Court in 305 cases. Of the total number of references, 338 were disposed of by the Registrar, the Official Referee and Master and their assistants.

Conveyances and sureties.

145. During the year the Registrar settled 32 conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 53 cases. The Registrar further inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 208 matters in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from the original jurisdiction.

146. The number of appeals from the Original to the Appellate Side of the Court pending at the commencement of 1912 was 51, and 89 new appeals were preferred. Of these appeals, 13 were dismissed for default and 102 were decided ; the decrees of the court of first instance were affirmed in 70 cases, modified in 10, and reversed in 15 ; and 7 cases were remanded for retrial. Twenty-five appeals remained undecided at the close of the year ; none had been pending for more than two years.

References from the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

147. At the commencement of the year three references were pending, and two were made during the year under review. Four references remained undisposed of at the close of the year.

Transfers from the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

148. Twenty-five cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Court Act, 1882, were pending at the commencement of the year, and 14 new applications under that section were granted by the High Court for transfer to that court. Of the 39 cases for disposal, 11 were decreed, 5 were dismissed after trial, 2 were dismissed for default, 1 was withdrawn and 4 were settled in court. The remaining 16 cases were pending at the close of the year. Twenty applications under section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the calling up of records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year, and 31 such applications were made to the High Court during the year. Of these, 10 applications were refused, in 15 cases the rules issued were discharged, and in 5 cases the rules issued were made absolute, and 1 case was remanded for retrial. Twenty cases were pending at the close of the year.

Insolvency cases.

149. The number of cases, under the old and new Acts, pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 200 and 442, respectively, and the number instituted during the year was 256. Of the 898 cases for disposal, 76 were disposed of; the adjudication was set aside or superseded or the petition withdrawn or dismissed in 14 cases, and the insolvents obtained relief in 62. Of the 76 cases disposed of, 9 were under the repealed Indian Insolvency Act, 1848 (11 & 12 Vict., c. 21), and of the persons who sought relief in these cases, 6 were traders within the meaning of section 9 of that Act, and 3 were private persons.

Duration of sittings.

150. For the hearing of original suits and applications 1 Judge sat alone for 28 days, 2 Judges sat separately or simultaneously for 152 days, and 3 Judges sat separately or simultaneously for 21 days. The Insolvency Court engaged the time of 1 Judge for 13 days. Appeals from the Original Side occupied a bench of 2 Judges for 57 days and a bench of 3 Judges for 56 days.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

151. Nine appeals from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, two were admitted during the year, and three were disposed of.

Receipts and expenditure.

152. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court in the Original Side during 1912 were Rs. 9,09,597-4-2 and Rs. 4,60,346-4-10, respectively.

Taxing Office.

153. The number of bills between party and party taxed during the year was 879, and of bills between attorney and client 448. The court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 22,923. This sum is also included in the item " Other fees realized by means of stamps."

II.—Civil Courts in the Mufassal Subordinate to the High Court.

Jurisdiction.

154. As a result of the redistribution of territories the districts of Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling were formed into a new District Judgeship, styled the Dinajpur-Darjeeling Judgeship, with its head-quarters at the station of Dinajpur. The Munsif's Court at Kotalpur, in the district of Bankura, was transferred to Vishnupur in the same district, with effect from the 12th November 1912.

Original suits instituted.

155. 626,141 suits were instituted in 1912, a decrease of 21,498. The decreases in money and rent-suits were 3·9 and 3·8 per cent., respectively, while there was an increase of 1·8 per cent. in the institution of title-suits. 276,130 money-suits were instituted against 287,503 in 1911. The total value of suits instituted was Rs. 8,17,18,349, showing an increase of more than Rs. 97,00,000 due to the institution of a larger number of title-suits, valued at over a lakh of rupees.

Local distribution.

156. Excluding Dinajpur, the statistics of which do not admit of comparison on account of the addition of Darjeeling, there was a decrease in the number of suits instituted in all districts except Bankura, the 24-Parganas, Mymensingh and Chittagong. The decrease was most marked in Faridpur, Noakhali, Dacca and Murshidabad. The decrease in Faridpur and Dacca was chiefly of money-suits, in Noakhali and Murshidabad of suits for rent. No special reasons are assigned for the decrease in Faridpur and Noakhali. In Dacca the decrease is attributed to high prices of food-grains and to settlement proceedings, and in Murshidabad one of the causes assigned is that, owing to a good harvest, landlords were able to realize rents without recourse to litigation.

The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (56,374), the number of title-suits (7,071) being the heaviest in the province. In no other district did the institutions reach 50,000. In Dacca, Bakarganj, the 24-Parganas and Tippera they numbered between 40,000 and 50,000. Money-suits were most numerous in Dacca (35,589) and rent-suits in Bakarganj (31,969) followed by the 24-Parganas. Between 30,000 and 40,000 suits were instituted in the districts of Midnapore, Faridpur, Rangpur and Jessore, and between 20,000 and 30,000 in Chittagong, Pabna-Bogra, Nadia, Hooghly, Noakhali, Murshidabad and Rajshahi. In Khulna and Burdwan there were between 15,000 and 20,000. Bankura with 13,146 and Birbhum with 13,140 show the lowest figures.

Nature of suits instituted.

157. The majority of suits instituted were, as usual, for small sums, as the following figures show :—

		Suits for money and moveables.	Suits under the rent law.	Title and other suits.
	Rs.			
Not exceeding	10	18,219	73,254	4,432
	50	122,819	140,626	19,188
	100	65,788	41,064	10,978
	500	64,409	26,122	24,321
Exceeding Rs. 500, or value not stated.		4,895	1,983	8,043
Total	...	276,130	283,049	66,962

In suits for money or moveables 51 per cent., and in rent-suits 75·5 per cent., were for sums of less than Rs. 50. In suits under the rent law 99·1 per cent. were for realization of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title-suits 36·2 per cent. were mortgage-suits, 45·7 suits for immoveable property, and 8·6 suits for specific relief. The suits under this head represent in value more than one-third of the total litigation of the province. Thirty-one title-suits were valued at over a lakh.

Number and results of suits decided.

158. In addition to the 626,141 suits instituted during the year and the 150,370 suits pending trial from the previous year, 11,008 suits were revived,

or received on remand or review, making a total for disposal of 787,599. 624,647 suits were disposed of, a decrease of 22,823 compared with 1911. Out of the total, 590,515 were disposed of by Munsifs, 16,444 by Subordinate Judges, 17,174 by Small Cause Court Judges, and 514 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show a decrease of disposals in the courts of Small Cause Court Judges and Munsifs. In the suits disposed of during the year, plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 131,146 cases, or 20·9 per cent., of which 96,826 were dismissed for default; a compromise was effected in 76,390 cases, or 12·3 per cent., and plaintiffs were successful in 417,111 cases, or 66·8 per cent. The results are less favourable to the plaintiffs than in the preceding year. Of the 112,879 suits decided on contest 94,937, or 84·1 per cent., resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 17,942, or 15·9 per cent., in favour of defendants.

Applications for retrial.

159. The percentage of applications for retrial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default, or in which decrees were made *ex parte*, was 4·9, the numbers being 20,117 and 409,983, respectively. The applications were successful in as many as 9,802 cases, or 48·7 per cent.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

160. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs fell from 613,551 to 590,515—a decrease of 23,036; the average disposed of by each Munsif was 2,440, against 2,577 in 1911. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 30·7 per cent. of the total. The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs was 105,415, or 17·8 per cent. of the total; the average decided by each Munsif was 435, against 463 in 1911. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs, the percentage contested was 18·8, and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure, 15·5. The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows a decrease of 12,655.

Suits heard by Subordinate Judges and by Small Cause Court Judges.

161. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges in 1912 was 16,444, an increase of 1,052 on the figures of the previous year. There was an increase in cases decided both under the ordinary procedure and in the exercise of Small Cause Court powers, and both in contested and in uncontested suits. 3,576 suits were decided under the ordinary procedure, and 12,868 under the Small Cause Court procedure; and 36·9 per cent. and 18·6 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after contest under the ordinary procedure shows a slight decrease. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 17,174 original suits, of which 3,544 were contested.

Average duration of cases.

162. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided by the several grades of courts is given in the following statement:—

		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.	Small Cause Court Judges.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under ordinary procedure.	Contested ...	240	442	200	...
	Uncontested ...	149	220	104	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	Contested ...	...	80	77	84
	Uncontested ...	...	54	53	52

The results show a general increase in the average duration of suits before the subordinate courts. The increase is most prominent in contested suits, tried by superior courts under the ordinary procedure.

Pending suits.

163. At the close of the year 163,332 suits were pending against 150,370 in the previous year, mainly owing to smaller disposals during the year. Of these cases, 4,751 had been pending for more than a year, 47,076 for more than six months, and 42,153 for more than three months. The figures show a slight reduction in the number pending for more than a year and a sensible rise in the number pending for more than six and three months. Of the suits pending over one year, 3,679 were in the courts of Munsifs and 1,072 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing a decrease

of 216 and an increase of 191, respectively, as compared with 1911. The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Noakhali (975), the 24-Parganas (472), Hooghly (396), Pabna-Bogra (373), Mymensingh (347), and Nadia (312). In each of these districts the congestion was principally in the Munsifs' courts. In Noakhali the number of year-old suits shows a considerable decrease, as compared with 1911. Additional assistance was given to those districts where the files appeared to be too heavy for the normal staff.

Execution proceedings.

164. There were 102,513 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 430,557 applications were made during the year. Realization was complete in 125,859 cases and partial in 93,160. In 208,590 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 96,387 remained pending at the close of the year. Execution proceedings were markedly unsuccessful in Dacca, Faridpur and Tippera, the percentages of totally infructuous proceedings being 84·5, 63·8, and 62·8, respectively. The results show a slight increase in the cases of Dacca and Tippera and a perceptible improvement in the case of Faridpur (from 70·4 to 63·8). The total amount realized in courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 1,59,88,095. Debtors were imprisoned in 130 cases ; moveable property was sold in 9,016, and immoveable property in 53,647, cases.

Miscellaneous cases.

165. The number of miscellaneous judicial cases instituted rose from 68,059 in 1911 to 68,782. The number disposed of rose from 66,065 to 69,573, and the number pending fell from 17,423 to 17,123. Of the cases disposed of 30,669 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed, 22,345 were decided *ex parte*, and 16,559 were contested. 51·6 per cent. of the applications disposed of after contest were granted. 108 cases had been pending for more than a year, the largest number (45) occurring in Dacca. The miscellaneous non-judicial cases instituted numbered 11,859 showing an increase of 1,059, as compared with the preceding year. Of these, about three-fourths were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 11,992, and the pending file fell from 1,599 to 1,467. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was, as usual, highest in Hooghly (1,502), followed by Rajshahi (1,218), the 24-Parganas (916), Birbhum (636), and Burdwan (604).

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Number of suits.

166. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1912 and the number pending at its close were 22,432, 24,438, and 2,682, respectively. These figures show a decrease of 1,447, 536 and 685, respectively, as compared with the previous year. Seventeen applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899). Institutions decreased in all classes of suits, but most markedly in suits valued at sums not exceeding Rs. 50 (10·2 per cent.). The total value of the litigation in the Presidency Small Cause Court was Rs. 41,74,144, as against Rs. 46,26,942 in the preceding year. The average duration of contested and uncontested cases was 70·3 and 37·3 days, respectively, against 79·8 and 38·8 days for 1911.

Mode of disposal.

167. Of the 24,438 suits disposed of, 1,526 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, or were withdrawn with leave, 18,124 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin, 4,783 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration and in 5 the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Compromised	...	5,446
Decreed on confession	...	3,369
Decreed *ex parte*	...	9,219
Dismissed *ex parte*	...	90
Total	...	18,124

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under the Letters Patent.

168. Eighty-nine appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent were filed during the year, and 51 were pending at its commencement. Of the

total 115 were decided and 25 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 52 more than in 1911. Of those undecided none had been pending for more than two years. Ninety-five third appeals were filed during the year, and 202 were pending at its commencement. Of these 115 were decided and 182 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from subordinate courts.

169. The statement in the margin shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts as courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the courts of the provinces of Bihar and Orissa and of Assam. The institutions of first and second appeal from decrees were respectively 8 and 389 more than in 1911. The numbers of first and second appeals from orders, on the other hand, fell short of those in the preceding year by 17 and 15 respectively.

	Pending at the end of 1911.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1912.
First Appeals.				
From decrees ...	1,647	483	649	1,481
„ orders ...	552	357	188	721
Second Appeals.				
From decrees ...	7,467	4,127	2,989	8,605
„ orders ...	357	291	358	290
Total ...	10,023	5,258	4,184	11,097

Appeals pending.

170. At the close of the year there were pending 2,202 first appeals, of which 1,481 were from decrees and 721 from orders, and 8,895 second appeals, of which 8,605 were from decrees. The total exceeds the number pending at the close of 1911 by 1,074.

Results of appeals.

171. Of the 649 appeals from original decrees decided 141 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. In appeals decided after contest the decrees of the lower courts were confirmed in 305 cases, reversed in 69, and varied in 85, while 49 cases were remanded. Of the 2,989 appeals from appellate decrees decided, 137 were uncontested and 1,452 were dealt with under Order XLI, rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code. 1,400 were heard and determined, and 828 decrees of the lower courts were affirmed, 145 reversed and 102 varied, while 325 cases were remanded. Of the 546 appeals from orders decided, 86 were uncontested, 175 were dealt with under Order XLI, rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code, and 285 were decided after trial, with the result that 178 orders of the lower courts were affirmed, 41 reversed and 34 varied, 42 cases being remanded. The following table shows the result of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges :—

	Affirmed.		Modified or Reversed.	
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from original decrees	141	164	43	111
Appeals from appellate „ ...	458	370	112	135
Miscellaneous appeals ...	77	101	30	35

Appeals to the Privy Council.

172. At the opening of the year 59 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England and 46 were pending for orders. Fifty-five new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal 44 were struck off or compromised, 19 were despatched to England, and 97 appeals were pending at the close of the year—1 of 1902, 2 of 1909, 31 of

1910, 20 of 1911, and 43 of 1912. Of the pending appeals, 50 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

Results of appeals to the Privy Council.

173. The results of 13 appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in 5 instances and reversed in 7 ; 1 appeal was remanded.

III.—Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals instituted.

174. 18,089 appeals were instituted, an increase of 1,053 as compared with the previous year. The number of appeals instituted rose, although the subordinate courts disposed of fewer suits. Of the appeals instituted 8,794 were in title-suits, 7,046 in rent-suits, and 2,249 in suits for money or moveables. There was an increase in the institutions of appeals of all classes. The number of appeals, valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50. was 2,016 and 6,321, respectively. The total value of the appeals instituted in the subordinate courts was Rs. 28,41,985, being more than the total of 1911 by over Rs. 1,29,000. The number of appealable decrees and orders passed by subordinate courts, was 72,575, and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of revenue officers, was 24·7 per cent. as against 20·8 in 1911. The highest percentages were 41·5 in Tippera, 37·3 in Noakhali, 35·5 in Pabna-Bogra, and 33·4 in Chittagong; and the lowest were in Dinajpur (10·7), Mymensingh (15·7), and Murshidabad (16·2). Excluding Dinajpur, the number of appeals instituted was larger than in the previous year in 11 districts and smaller in 9. The largest increases were in Noakhali (779), Pabna-Bogra (287), Tippera (279), and Bakarganj (167), while the noticeable decreases were in Midnapore (405), Mymensingh (283), and Khulna (114). In the remaining districts the variations were less than 100. The fluctuations were due in most cases to the appeals preferred against the decisions of settlement officers.

Appeals decided.

175. The number of appeals decided (18,108) was 3,609 more than in 1911. In the courts of District and Additional Judges disposals increased by 2,816, and in those of Subordinate Judges by 793. The number of appeals disposed of after contest (14,389) was 2,132 more than in 1911. Excluding Dinajpur, the increase in disposals was spread over 12 districts and was greatest in Tippera (1,411) and Midnapore (1,079). The increase in Tippera was due partly to the disposal of a large number of analogous appeals, while in Midnapore many settlement appeals were disposed of during the year. The noticeable decreases, on the other hand, were in Nadia (191) and Mymensingh (138). In Nadia this was due to the fact that in 1911 a large batch of appeals had been heard together and also to heavier criminal work of the District Judge. In Mymensingh the decrease was in rent-suits and was due to smaller staff.

Appeals pending.

176. There were 13,147 appeals pending at the close of the year, 446 more than at the end of 1911. The number pending for more than one year (636) is the same as at the close of 1911. The number was largest in Midnapore (166), where, however, the long-pending file shows an appreciable improvement.

Results of appeals.

177. The result on the decision of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows :—In 10,272 cases, or 56·7 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed ; in 2,255 cases, or 12·5 per cent., it was modified ; and in 2,789, or 15·4 per cent., it was reversed. 808 appeals, or 4·5 per cent., were remanded, and 1,984, or 10·9 per cent., were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are more favourable to the lower courts than those of the preceding year.

General.

178. The most noticeable feature of the year is that, in spite of a large decline in the institutions of original suits, the total pending in the mufassal courts shows a considerable increase. This result is due chiefly to the smaller outturn of Munsifs, as regards both contested and uncontested cases. The reduction in the number of year-old suits is inappreciable. There was a satisfactory increase in the outturn of appellate work by the superior courts. The pending appellate file shows an increase, owing to a rise in institutions ; the number of long pending appeals shows no variation. The institutions

on the appellate side of the High Court were more numerous than in 1911, and although there was a considerable increase in the number of cases decided, the arrears were in excess of those of the preceding year.

Inspection.

179. The courts of 15 Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and 83 Munsifs were inspected by District and Additional District Judges.

Receipts and charges of the civil courts.

180. The receipts of the civil courts for the year under review amounted to Rs. 1,27,04,911, showing an increase of Rs. 3,20,104 on the previous year; and the charges to Rs. 56,83,368, showing an increase of Rs. 3,62,155. Inclusive of the amount realized on account of duty on probates, etc., the profit to the Government from civil litigation was Rs. 70,21,543, or Rs. 42,049 less than in 1911; exclusive of this item, the surplus amounted to Rs. 63,01,574.

	Rs.
In the High Court ...	5,44,194
In other courts ...	1,75,775
	7,19,909

CIVIL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

181. The total number of suits instituted during 1912 in the civil courts in the Scheduled District of the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 440. The suits were for money or moveable property. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 596. The number disposed of was 377. Of these suits, 48 were contested and 17 were disposed of by arbitration. The number of miscellaneous cases was 2,925; of these 2,065 were disposed of, omitting transfers to courts in other provinces. The total number of appeals from decrees was 50 and the number disposed of 43. Out of 9 miscellaneous appeals, 8 were decided. 909 applications were made for execution of decrees, and 559 were disposed of.

Registration.

[Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1912. Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial. Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Registration.

182. Two new offices were opened during the year—one an *ex-officio* charge at Godagiri in the district of Rajshahi and the other experimentally at Madaripur in the district of Faridpur. The total number of registrations during the year was 1,462,186, showing an increase by 6·4 per cent. In the Burdwan Division registrations, which had fallen off in 1911, increased in all the districts, specially in Midnapore and in Bankura. In Midnapore mortgages increased by 16·1 per cent. owing, it is said, to the high prices of food-grains and the unwillingness of money-lenders to advance money on any security save immoveable property. Leases for terms of years also increased considerably owing to the commencement of settlement operations which led zamindars to insist upon their tenants executing leases. In Bankura owing to the indebtedness of tenants, sales, mortgages and bonds increased by 12, 9·2 and 30·3 per cent. respectively, while settlement of waste lands accounted for the increase of perpetual leases by 16·9 per cent. Registrations increased, though not largely, in all districts of the Presidency Division, except Calcutta, where the removal of the capital to Delhi and the operation of the Calcutta Improvement Act, 1911, led to a temporary lull in transactions affecting land. In the 24-Parganas the high figure of registrations for 1911 was more than maintained. In the Dacca Division registrations increased largely, owing mainly to the high prices of food-grains and the unfavorable prices of jute and partly to the settlement operations in progress. In all the three districts of the Chittagong Division registrations increased. In Noakhali mortgages increased by 13·1 per cent. owing to the people in the south, where diluvion is extensive, being forced to raise loans to enable them to settle in new places. In the Darjeeling and Rajshahi districts of the Rajshahi Division there was little change; in the remaining districts of the Division there were small increases.

Working of the Brahmo Marriage Act, III of 1872.

183. Twenty-six marriages were registered during the year under review as against 37 in the previous year. Fifteen marriages were registered in Calcutta, 4 in Howrah, 3 in Dacca, and 1 each in Faridpur, Bakarganj,

Mymensingh, and Darjeeling. There were 22 Marriage Registrars under the Act in addition to 28 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars. Of these 8 Marriage Registrars and 1 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrar registered marriages during the year. The ages of the bridegrooms ranged from 20 to 53 and those of the brides from 14½ to 33 years. Three widows, whose ages ranged from 22 to 24, were remarried.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act and the Kazi's Act.

184. As in the preceding year Bengal Act I of 1876 (an Act for the Voluntary Registration of Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces) was in force in 26 districts in this Presidency. There were 273 registration offices open at the end of the year, against 267 in the preceding year. Five registration offices were opened during the year at Rajabari in Dacca, Bhalukain Mymensingh, Mutiganj in Noakhali, and Charghat and Mahadebpur in Rajshahi. An office at Mujganni in thana Monirampur in the district of Jessore could not, though sanctioned, be opened during the year owing to the want of a suitable candidate for the post of a Muhammadan Marriage Registrar. Registration took place in 255 offices, and no work was done in theremaining 18 offices. The total number of ceremonies registered increased by 15·3 per cent. as compared with the preceding year, the figures being 67,194 and 58,270, respectively. The total receipts of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis, including gratuities, amounted to Rs. 1,30,730 against Rs. 1,11,499, showing an increase of 17·2 per cent. The increase of registration in the districts of the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions is attributed to the growing popularity of the Act. The increase in Mymensingh district is also attributed to the strong desire cherished by the Muhammadans, especially those of the common classes, to get matrimonial ce remonies performed before the advent of the Bengali year 1320, which was considered inauspicious owing to the final digit being a cipher.

Working of the Indian Companies Act VI of 1882.

185. During the year 138 companies were registered, 135 limited by shares and 3 by guarantee. In 1911-12, 126 were registered, of which 124 were limited by shares and 2 by guarantee. Of the companies limited by shares 21 were promoted by Europeans, 10 jointly by Europeans and Indians, and 104 by Indians. Thirty-two companies ceased to work against 14 in the previous year, and 7 companies which had previously gone into liquidation submitted their final reports. The number of companies successfully managed by Indians in Bengal still continues to be deplorably small. One hundred and forty-six companies increased their paid-up capital, while no company reduced its capital during the year. At the close of the year 847 companies limited by shares were working with an aggregate nominal capital of Rs. 87,49,16,900, and a paid-up capital of Rs. 27,08,01,086, against 745 companies with a total capital of Rs. 82,69,60,700 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 26,47,57,634 in 1911-12. The fees realized amounted to Rs. 30,657-8, against Rs. 23,868-4 of the previous year. No company availed itself of the provisions of the Indian Companies Branch Registration Act IV of 1900.

The increase in the number of companies limited by shares was greatest in the case of "Banking and Loan," "Tea and other Planting" and "Mining and Quarrying" companies. Fewer "Insurance" and "Trading" companies were started. The failure of 25 trading companies during the year doubtless discouraged the promotion of new ones, and the passing of the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act and the Provident Insurance Societies Act in the previous year explains the decrease in the number of Insurance Companies.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of Municipalities in the Bengal Presidency (except Calcutta) during the year 1912-13. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Number.

186. The number of Municipalities remained unchanged. The proposed creation of a Municipality at Bhola has been postponed.

Elections.

187. General elections were held in 62 Municipalities. In Burdwan the new Board was not formed till March 1913 owing to objections which were filed against the election of certain Commissioners, and civil litigation is still pending. There were only three candidates for 8 seats at Kurseong, where the voters are said to be utterly indifferent to the elections. Five members were therefore appointed by the Governor under section 16 of the Municipal Act. The elections of 1911-12 at Barisal, which had been declared invalid by the District Magistrate, were held by the Civil Court to be valid.

Attendance at meetings.

188. The total number of meetings held was 2,050 against 1,980 in the previous year, and of these 132 against 146 were adjourned for want of a quorum. Ten Municipalities failed to hold a meeting every month.

Number of ratepayers.

189. The number of ratepayers was 311,654 against 312,338 in the previous year; the total municipal population was 1,974,638. The percentage was lowest in Titagarh (3·5), Garulia (5·1), Bhatpara (6·2), Bhadreswar (8·6), and Garden Reach and Narayanganj (8·8 each).

Assessment and taxation.

190. In 37 Municipalities the rate on holdings was the chief form of taxation. In 69 there was a tax on persons. In 5 both systems were in force. Latrine fees were levied in 92, water-rates in 15, and a lighting-rate in 4. The average incidence of taxation per head of the population was Re. 1-15-4, as against Re. 1-14-8 in 1911-12. Apart from Darjeeling, where the incidence was Rs. 8-6-9, the average was highest in Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 5-4-6) and lowest in Baduria and Ramjibanpur (annas 6-3).

Revision of assessments.

191. A general or partial revision was made in 63 Municipalities, with noticeably satisfactory results in the following cases:—

	Increase of revenue.
	Rs.
Maniktala	4,780
Jalpaiguri	3,180
Jamalpur	2,582
Tangail	2,192
Khulna	1,966
Nawabganj	1,797
Madaripur	1,728
South Barrackpore	1,350
Rajpur	1,249
Taki	913

Collections.

192. The total collections rose from Rs. 37,13,664 to Rs. 38,06,365. The percentage of total collections on current demand fell from 97·8 to 96·15 as the arrears outstanding at the commencement of the year were considerably less than those of the year before. The Municipalities showing the best results were Nawabganj (113·2), Mymensingh (111·9), and Khirpai and South Suburban (106·1). The Garulia Municipality again collected cent per cent. Twenty-one Municipalities had collections of 100 per cent. and over. The results were worst in Pabna (88·9), Jangipur (86·7) and Taki (76·09): in Taki the newly made assessments were challenged. In Raniganj and Sonamukhi the collections declined by 15·8 and 5 per cent respectively. The percentage of total remissions on current demand was 3·1 against 4·1 for the previous year. The averages were highest in South Suburban (10·5), Bansbaria (8·3), Maniktala (8·1), Bhadreswar (7·72) and Kushtia (7·4); and lowest in Chandrakona (·07). The outstanding balances of Burdwan and Hooghly-Chinsura amounted to Rs. 13,289 and Rs. 17,162 in spite of reductions by Rs. 6,769 and Rs. 1,050. In nine other Municipalities there were unrecovered balances of over Rs. 5,000.

Income and Expenditure.

193. The total receipts of the Municipalities in the Presidency, including opening balances, amounted to Rs. 93,22,039 as compared with Rs. 78,08,730, in the previous year. The increase occurred chiefly under the following heads:—

	Rs.
Opening balance	3,77,071
Rates and taxes	95,215
Extraordinary and debt	11,21,568

The total disbursements amounted to Rs. 74,84,083 as compared with Rs. 59,76,731. There was a decrease under "Miscellaneous," and an increase under all other heads, especially Public Health and Convenience (Rs. 2,29,195) and Extraordinary and Debt (Rs. 12,63,547).

Closing balances.

194. The closing balances rose from Rs. 18,31,999 to Rs. 18,37,956. They were largest in Howrah (Rs. 4,47,944), Darjeeling (Rs. 1,41,099), and Dacca (Rs. 80,837). The balance in Burdwan fell from Rs. 1,10,126 to Rs. 77,974 and in Hooghly-Chinsura from Rs. 1,57,768 to Rs. 82,470.

INCOME.

Total receipts.

195. The total income of the year, excluding that under the heads of "Opening balance" and "Extraordinary and Debt" amounted to Rs. 50,99,683, an increase of Rs. 14,670 over that of the previous year. Details of the main items are given below.

Taxes on houses and lands.

196. There was an increase of Rs. 13,512 under the head "Taxes on houses and lands." In Garden Reach there was a decrease of Rs. 17,748: the receipts of the previous year included large arrears.

Taxes on animals and vehicles.

197. The receipts from taxes on animals and vehicles increased by Rs. 7,023, most of which accrued in the Rajshahi Division.

Tolls on roads and ferries.

198. The receipts from tolls on roads and ferries fell by Rs. 4,936. The largest decrease occurred in the 24-Parganas and was due chiefly to the non-payment of the Baranagar Municipality's share of the ferry receipts. In Burdwan there was an increase of Rs. 1,617.

Water-rate.

199. The receipts from the water-rate, which was levied in 15 Municipalities, increased by Rs. 29,399. Of this the newly enforced rate in Barisal accounted for Rs. 10,208. In Cossipore-Chitpur there was an unexplained increase of Rs. 13,836. In Garden Reach, where the previous year's receipts included large arrears, there was a decrease of Rs. 7,616. In Maniktala the refund of a portion of the rates illegally raised in 1911-12 caused a decrease of Rs. 2,776.

Lighting-rate.

200. The receipts from the lighting-rate, which was levied in four Municipalities, rose by Rs. 9,413. There was an increase of Rs. 7,408 in Howrah, and of Rs. 1,611 in Darjeeling, where the lighted area was extended.

Conservancy.

201. The income under the head "Conservancy" showed an increase of Rs. 23,169, chiefly in the Burdwan (Rs. 12,096) and Presidency (Rs. 7,960) Divisions. The sale of sweepings and leasing out of trenching grounds brought in only Rs. 802 and the sale of night-soil Rs. 2,342 (Rs. 2,072 in Burdwan alone) against Rs. 2,323 in the previous year.

Tax on persons and tax on Professions and trades.

202. The receipts from the tax on persons increased by Rs. 8,759, mainly in the Dacca (Rs. 5,656) and Burdwan (Rs. 3,651) Divisions. The tax on professions brought in Rs. 13,355 more than in the previous year. In Howrah alone there was an increase of Rs. 16,304. In Tollyganj the tanners and brickmakers combined to refuse payment, and there was a decrease in the 24-Parganas of Rs. 4,178.

Hackney Carriage Act.

203. The Municipalities with an income under the Hackney Carriage Act numbered 56 against 53 in the previous year; the total receipts improved by Rs. 913.

Grants from Provincial and Local Funds and contributions from Private individuals.

204. The receipts from grants and contributions declined by Rs. 1,19,303. The principal grants made by Government were to the Municipalities of Katwa (Rs. 25,400 for drainage), Chittagong (Rs. 20,000 for general purposes), Baranagar and Garulia (Rs. 11,000 each for drainage), Dacca (Rs. 8,340 for general purposes) and Darjeeling (Rs. 7,903). In Barisal the District Board contribution of Rs. 35,000 for the waterworks was adjusted during the year. Among contributions from private persons the most noteworthy were those of Raja Rao Jogendra Narain Ray Bahadur of Lalgola towards a phthisis ward in the Berhampore Hospital (Rs. 17,315) and of the Maharaja of Burdwan towards the Burdwan drainage scheme (Rs. 10,000).

EXPENDITURE.

Office and collection establishment.

205. The total expenditure on office and collection establishment showed an increase of Rs. 11,774. The percentage on the total ordinary expenditure

was highest in Debhatta (23·7), Nalchiti (23·1) and old Malda (20·9), and lowest in Chandpur (2·2) and Hooghly-Chinsura (1·9). In Debhatta part of the pay of the establishment for the previous year was paid in the year under report.

Prevention of fire.

206. Expenditure on the prevention of fire was incurred by 20 Municipalities. The amounts spent varied from Rs. 2 in Sherpur to Rs. 25,134 in Cossipore-Chitpur. There was a decrease of Rs. 6,125 in the total expenditure.

Lighting.

207. The expenditure on lighting rose by Rs. 14,487. Of the six Municipalities noticed in last year's report as spending nothing on street lighting, Debhatta spent only Rs. 25, while South Barrackpore, North Barrackpore, Taki, Birnagar, and Chakdah again spent nothing. In Barisal and Chittagong the number of lamps is reported to be insufficient and the lighting generally defective. In Faridpur a regular scheme was adopted for gradually improving the lighting of the town.

Water-supply.

208. The expenditure on water-supply rose by Rs. 3,19,660 capital outlay, and Rs. 17,186 for establishment and repairs. The large increase in the Burdwan Division is explained by heavy expenditure in Howrah (Rs. 1,30,096) and Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 2,26,700). The water-works at Hooghly-Chinsura are nearing completion. Kurseong incurred an expenditure of Rs. 42,808 on the water-works which were opened in May 1912. The water supplied was plentiful but proved on analysis to be inferior to other water in the neighbourhood. In Darjeeling the catchment area was extended: the total cost up to the end of the year was Rs. 4,68,409. In Chandpur a sum of Rs. 27,350, including Rs. 15,000 lent by Government, was spent on water-works in the old bazar, but so far the water has not proved quite satisfactory. The works in Pirojpur were opened and proved a success. The South Suburban Municipality expended Rs. 12,776 on installing an elevated reservoir. The Jessore water-works could not be completed, and work at Khulna was stopped by the contractors without a reason being given.

A second pump was erected at Narayanganj. At Mymensingh the excessive waste of water, noted in last year's report, was checked by the regulation of stopcocks and the installation of meters. The question of the additional funds required for completing the Barisal water-works is now under the consideration of Government. No progress was made with the schemes in Rampur Boalia and Pabna. In Natore a tank was constructed but proved too small for the requirements of the town. The scheme for the water-works at Kalna fell through owing to the withdrawal of a promised donation of Rs. 25,000. No action was taken as to the combined drainage and water-supply scheme in Bankura in spite of the receipt of a Government grant. At Serampore contractors' delays prevented the completion of the filtered water-works.

Drainage.

209. The total capital outlay on drainage fell from Rs. 1,65,933 to Rs. 1,48,138; the expenditure on establishment, repairs, etc., rose from Rs. 1,16,574 to Rs. 1,31,123. The drainage scheme for Dacca is still under consideration, and that at Mymensingh made little progress. A revised scheme was submitted for Tangail, but Government directed that only a limited area should be drained at present, at an estimated cost of Rs. 19,233 half to be raised by loan and half given by Government. The scheme for the drainage of Kurseong was considered too ambitious and is being revised. The two chief *jhora* drains, which could not be cemented before the rains, were almost completely washed away. In Darjeeling drystone drains were rebuilt with concrete and Raniganj tiles at a cost of Rs. 36,411. In Natore nothing was done towards preparing a comprehensive scheme, but one channel was opened in a particularly insanitary quarter. In Dinajpur and Comilla surveys were made preparatory to drafting drainage schemes. The outfall channel at Bhatpara, sanctioned during the year, is expected to be finished shortly. The second part of the Garulia drainage scheme was taken up. In the northern part of Budge-Budge, the work could not be completed because the scheme included land outside municipal limits. The Baraset and Baruipur schemes proved unsuccessful, and are now being revised. Plans and estimates were prepared by the Irrigation Department for the Bagjala Khal and the Municipalities concerned are being asked to contribute towards the cost. The Burdwan Municipality carried out part of the drainage scheme

at an expenditure of Rs. 41,138. The sanctioned schemes at Katwa and Bankura were not taken up.

Conservancy.

210. Expenditure on Conservancy fell by Rs. 11,653 (or by Rs. 1,04,064 if the capital expenditure on sewage works in Darjeeling be reckoned for the previous year). There was a decrease of Rs. 46,788 in Dacca, where large sums had been spent in the previous year on a conservancy tramway. There was a noticeable decrease of Rs. 1,500 in Bogra where the superintendence of conservancy arrangements is reported to be inadequate.

Hospitals and dispensaries.

211. The expenditure on Hospitals and Dispensaries increased by Rs. 11,104. The Barisal and Asansol Municipalities contributed Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 2,000 respectively, towards new dispensaries. Darjeeling, Dacca and Pirojpur show unexplained increases of Rs. 3,617, Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 757, respectively. Hooghly-Chinsura gave Rs. 800 towards the nursing system and Rs. 500 towards the hospital. At Bogra the prevalent belief that subscriptions merely relieve the finances of local bodies affected the support given to the Sherpur dispensary. At Khulna an operating room was constructed in the Woodburn hospital. The Pabna Municipality for lack of funds made no contribution towards the dispensary.

Plague and other epidemic disease charges.

212. In the Presidency Division precautionary measures cost Rs. 16,131 and in Dacca Rs. 858. In Pabna an imported plague case ended fatally and the disposal of the dead body cost the Municipality, Rs. 90. In Burdwan the expenditure rose by Rs. 302 owing to the repair of the Katwa plague house and sanitary improvements. There was no plague in epidemic form in any of the Municipalities.

Public Works.

213. The expenditure on Public Works rose by Rs. 32,120. There were increases under the subheads of establishment (Rs. 5,399) and Buildings (Rs. 49,528) and decreases under Roads (Rs. 4,246) and Stores (Rs. 18,561). In 28 Municipalities the percentage of the outlay on public works to the total ordinary expenditure was 25 per cent. or more. As in the previous year it was highest in Dhulian (62·1) and lowest in Kurseong (·8). In Kharar it rose from 18·9 to 24·9 per cent. The roads of Rangpur, English Bazar and Krishnagar are reported to be very bad. In Berhampore the expenditure on roads amounted to Rs. 14,301, as against Rs. 9,081 in the previous year, but owing to bad supervision there was little improvement. In Chittagong the Strand Road was made over to the Public Works Department.

Public Instruction.

214. The total expenditure on Public Instruction rose by Rs. 6,586. There were small decreases in Dacca (Rs. 179) and Burdwan (Rs. 709). The ratio of expenditure on primary education to the total ordinary income of Municipalities varied from 10·5 per cent. in Cox's Bazar to ·7 in Darjeeling, and was less than 3·2 per cent. in 37 Municipalities.

Loans.

215. Forty-three Municipalities were in debt during the year. The outstanding liabilities were largest in Howrah (Rs. 20,21,494), Darjeeling (Rs. 8,38,660), Dacca (Rs. 3,20,882), Narayanganj (Rs. 1,46,972) and Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 1,41,615). Eight Municipalities took loans during the year: viz., Darjeeling (Rs. 1,53,000 for bazar barracks, sewage scheme and drainage), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 1,12,000 for water-works), Serampore (Rs. 40,000 for water-works), Chandpur (Rs. 15,000 to meet the capital cost of the old bazar water-works), Bankura (Rs. 12,500 for combined drainage and water-supply scheme), Jessore (Rs. 5,000 for water-works), Kushtia (Rs. 4,000, the first instalment of a loan of Rs. 10,000 sanctioned for a drainage scheme) and Kharar (Rs. 2,500 for a dispensary building). The Garden Reach Municipality repaid all its debts (Rs. 12,608) in advance of the due date.

Liabilities.

216. On the 31st March 1913, 85 Municipalities in the Presidency had outstanding liabilities amounting to Rs. 3,25,422 or 8·9 per cent. of their current demand. In 12 Municipalities such liabilities exceeded the closing balance.

Audit of accounts and embezzlement.

217. Embezzlements were detected in the Municipalities of Baranagar, South Dum-Dum, Ranaghat, Nadia and Maheshpur, all in the Presidency Division.

Howrah.

218. In Howrah, the year was devoted mainly to the development of schemes already undertaken. The ordinary income was Rs. 11,72,491 (against Rs. 11,38,648 for 1911-12), and the expenditure Rs. 8,59,061 (against Rs. 7,74,719). The collections amounted to 90·5 per cent. of the net current

demand, and the outstanding balance at the close of the year was Rs. 57,630. The outstanding debt was Rs. 20,21,494 ; no new loan was taken during the year. The expenditure on the water-supply rose from Rs. 66,136 to Rs. 2,00,960, of which Rs. 1,34,389 represented capital outlay. On the ground of economy in upkeep, it has been decided to adopt slow sand filters rather than the Jewell Mechanical filters ; the estimated cost of the revised scheme is Rs. 16,73,068. The expenditure on drainage fell considerably, *viz.*, from Rs. 72,721 to Rs. 33,651, which included Rs. 21,026 spent on capital outlay and establishment. Progress was delayed for want of the final sanction of Government to the estimates for the excavation of the canal which is to be the outfall for the western part of the town. Final arrangements have been made for lighting the town by electricity instead of by gas, and some progress was also made with the proposal for a complete survey of the town. There were three different Chairmen to the Municipality during the year.

Administration.

219. The Divisional Commissioner of Burdwan reports that party faction was very prevalent in the Municipalities ; especially in Uttarpara where the exercise of undue influence made the elections a scandal. In Burdwan the administration showed some slight improvement during the year, but in Midnapore very little progress was made. Rajshahi, Darjeeling, Kurseong, Bogra and Dinajpur are again mentioned as the Municipalities which were managed best. In the Presidency Division party feeling hampered efficient administration. In some of the less advanced Municipalities the Account Rules were not properly observed and the defects were not remedied with promptitude though repeatedly pointed out by the auditor. In the larger Municipalities, however, there are signs that the rate-payers are beginning to take an interest in municipal affairs and to co-operate actively in the work. The Commissioner of Dacca remarks that as a whole the Municipalities worked quite as well as could be expected and sometimes better. The financial position of the Barisal Municipality was bad, and there was much mismanagement : but there are indications that an improvement may be expected. The small Municipalities in Bakarganj are stated to have managed their limited funds with success ; the administration of Pirojpur was especially creditable. Of the four Municipalities which were given a free hand in the preparation of their budget, Burdwan and Maniktala failed to prepare their budgets in strict accordance with the Account Rules.

Calcutta Municipality.

[Report on the Calcutta Municipality for the year 1912-13. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Introductory.

220. There was great activity in all branches of the administration, and schemes were considered for reform or improvement in almost every department. The Reorganization Committee, after long consideration, recommended the retention of the district system in preference to centralization on the ground that in a town like Calcutta it is a great advantage to the people to have officers within easy reach. The revenue of the Corporation again showed an increase ; it is therefore probable that there was no ground for the apprehension recently felt that the transfer of the Capital might affect the rateable value of the city.

Bye-laws.

221. The proposed amendment of the Slaughter-house bye-laws so as to provide for the proper feeding of the animals brought for slaughter has been sanctioned by Government since the close of the year. In regard to carts the question of prescribing loads, according to the width of tyres and the class of animals used, was dropped, pending the amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899. The existing legal penalties for disobedience to the bye-law forbidding performances in theatres to continue after 1 P.M. proved inadequate. It is proposed that the Act should be amended so as to provide more severe penalties, and that no person should be permitted to keep a theatre without a license forfeitable upon breach of the rules.

Revenue Funds.

222. The Revenue Funds opened with a balance of Rs. 26,83,761. Receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 97,04,923 and payments to

Rs. 96,46,074, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 27,42,610. On the basis of assets and liabilities the income of the year was Rs. 98,63,894 and the expenditure Rs. 98,29,561. The surplus of income over expenditure was Rs. 34,333, which, with the opening balance of Rs. 18,34,827, left the substantial balance of Rs. 18,69,160 at the close of the year. As in the previous year the growth of recurring receipts (4·6 per cent.) did not keep pace with that of recurring expenditure (9·1 per cent.). Recurring receipts, however, showed a surplus of Rs. 5,22,775 over recurring payments. A satisfactory feature of the year was that the cost of establishments, which had steadily increased during the previous three years, received a decided check, and the percentage of establishment charges to the total expenditure fell from 21·6 in 1911-12 to 19 in 1912-13.

While the general financial condition of the Corporation is sound the situation is not without disquieting features. It is feared that when the present large balance is exhausted, the rates which now stand at 19½ per cent. may have to be further increased to provide for the large annual contribution to the Calcutta Improvement Trust. For many years Loans works will be needed to maintain and improve the city services, and the silting of the Bidyadhari river which is the outfall for the disposal of the city sewage may in another three or four years necessitate costly work either for sewage treatment or for the provision of another and more distant outfall.

Loans.

223. During the year the Government of India sanctioned the raising by the Corporation of a loan of Rs. 34 lakhs. The loan funds opened with a balance of Rs. 18,28,301. The receipts, including the amount of the new debentures issued during the year, amounted to Rs. 35,41,812 and payments to Rs. 26,12,972, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 27,57,141.

Loan Liability.

224. At the close of the year the total liability from loans was Rs. 4,92,27,500. The interest on outstanding loans amounted to Rs. 21,08,119, and the Sinking Fund contribution to Rs. 4,92,275. The total amount credited to Sinking Fund on 31st March 1913 was Rs. 24,19,683. During the year a payment of Rs. 3,10,640 was made into the Special Reserve Fund created to remedy the shortage which had been caused in the Sinking Fund by the practice of repaying loans from it before the contributions to it for such loans had reached a sum equivalent to the full amount of the loans.

Borrowing Capacity.

225. The theoretical borrowing capacity of the Corporation calculated on the basis prescribed in section 131 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, was Rs. 2,58,71,600. The actual borrowing capacity, however, depends on the ability of the Corporation to pay loan charges and, therefore, on the surplus of receipts over expenditure. If non-recurring charges in the year's expenditure are not considered, the surplus available would permit of fresh borrowing to the extent of Rs. 98,31,000, or of Rs. 80,86,000 if a Sinking Fund contribution of Rs. 2,079 per cent. is enforced.

Assessment.

226. Four wards were revalued on the expiry of the six-yearly period of assessment, and an increase of nearly Rs. 15 lakhs resulted. Of this increase Rs. 6½ lakhs came from residential and nearly Rs. 8 lakhs from tenanted houses. The total gross valuation on 31st March 1913 was more than double that of 20 years ago, amounting to Rs. 393 lakhs as compared with Rs. 240½ lakhs in March 1903. The control of the Surveyor's Department was transferred to the City Architect during the year.

Collections.

227. The total demand including the balance of the previous year amounted to Rs. 78,70,000, *viz.*, Rs. 73,09,000 for rates, and Rs. 5,61,000 on account of miscellaneous bills. The total realised amounted to Rs. 74,60,000 or 94·8 per cent of the gross demand, compared with 95 per cent. of the previous year. The gross current demand for rates, excluding demands withdrawn and pending with the Assessor, amounted to Rs. 71,36,700, and the collections to Rs. 68,95,000. The percentage of collection was 96·61 as against 96·68 and 97·06 in the two preceding years. The percentage of collections on the net demand amounted to 99·73 as against 99·84 in 1911-12. The balance in the hands of the Collector on account of rates was Rs. 15,400 only. The total from licenses rose from Rs. 10,74,500 in 1911-12 to Rs. 11,02,500.

Bustee Department.

228. Progress was again satisfactory. Huts were completely removed from 40 bighas of insanitary *bustees*. Over a mile of roadway was opened in

insanitary *bustees* and about a quarter of a mile of underground sewers laid. In the last seven years about 10 miles of roads have been opened and about 6 miles of sewers laid in *bustees*.

Water-supply. 229. During March 1913 the average daily supply of filtered water was 35⅓ million gallons against 32¾ million gallons in March 1912, and 28 million gallons in March 1911, *i.e.*, immediately before the introduction of the improvement scheme. The high rate of consumption was due chiefly to wilful waste of water by householders. In view of the absolute necessity of preventing this enormous waste it is proposed that meters should be fixed on every house-connection.

Applications for the supply of filtered water were received from three outlying Municipalities, namely, Kamarhati, Baranagore and South Dum-Dum. The Talla elevated reservoir scheme, however, did not provide sufficient water for all the 12 outlying Municipalities who are entitled to ask for a supply from Calcutta under section 278 of the Calcutta Municipal Act. The applications from Baranagore and Kamarhati had, therefore, to be refused until such time as the urgent requirements of Calcutta itself are fully met. The sub-committee appointed to consider Major Clemesha's report agreed with him that the filtered water-supply is of excellent quality for eight months of the year, but slightly inferior during the four months of the rains. The consumption of unfiltered water rose from 22·8 gallons per head per day to 24·6 gallons.

Drainage. 230. Some progress was made with the scheme for the sewering of the unsewered roads in wards 23, 24 and 25. In wards 19, 20, 21 and 22 no progress was made in the schemes for surface drainage. The construction of sewers in the fringe area has made good progress ; out of a total length of 71,000 feet of mains and branches to be constructed, nearly 11,000 feet were constructed during the year. Thus nearly 69,000 feet in all with the necessary adjuncts have already been completed.

Lighting. 231. The year under report almost synchronizes with the first year of the working of the new gas contract, and it appears that the original anticipations as to the economy of the arrangement have been realised. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 5,08,432, a saving of over Rs. 1 lakh compared with the probable expenditure under the old agreement. The number of new gas lights erected during the year was 443, making a total of 10,502. One hundred and one oil lamps were put up, and 162 others replaced by gas lamps.

Squares. 232. A sum of Rs. 20,000 was spent on the upkeep of squares against Rs. 10,780 in 1911-12, but even this is hardly more than sufficient for their maintenance and small improvements. The provision of a new square in Chetla was postponed owing to a suggested change of site. The scheme for a park in the north part of the city and the proposal to make a square between Amherst Street and Sukea's Street were referred to the Improvement Committee.

Roads. 233. An area of about 8,430,000 square feet, or more than a third of the total area of the roads metalled with stone or brick in the city, was thoroughly repaired during the year at an expenditure of Rs. 6,32,000 as compared with Rs. 6,63,000 for the preceding year. The main reason for this decrease in expenditure in spite of the larger area repaired was a saving in the charges for labour. During the past three years the Corporation have embarked on a policy of improving the road-surfaces, and the system of tar-macadam has met with general satisfaction. The Corporation drew up a scheme for paving 43 streets with stone setts at an estimated cost of Rs. 14,33,714, but this has been disallowed by Government since the close of the year, on the ground that further experiments should be made with tar-macadam before such heavy expenditure is incurred.

Conservancy. 234. The expenditure under the head of street-cleansing, which includes the incinerator and the Municipal Railway, rose to Rs. 9 lakhs from Rs. 7,85,000 in 1911-12. This has resulted in a great improvement, but better results cannot be obtained till the public abandons the habit of depositing refuse on the streets at all hours of the day and night. The question of removing from the Circular Road the refuse platforms and the Municipal Railway line,

which at present spoil the beauty of the finest arterial road in Calcutta, is still under consideration.

Health Department.

235. The number of births registered during the calendar year 1912 was 19,426 or 21·6 per mille, which almost equals the record rate of the preceding year. The number of reported deaths was 25,209 or 28·1 per thousand against 27·2 of the preceding year which was the lowest rate on record. It is worthy of note that the death-rate of Calcutta is lower than that of Bombay, Madras or Rangoon. The conspicuous reduction in the death-rate of the fringe area is a striking testimony to the improvements carried out there. There were 5,044 deaths among infants under one year or 259 deaths per thousand births. This is undoubtedly a high rate, but it is lower than that of Bombay, Madras or Rangoon. Cases of plague numbered 1,938 and resulting deaths 1,831. These figures show that compared with earlier years the epidemic was mild. The deaths from cholera rose from 1,860 in 1911 to 2,244 in 1912, which is however lower than the quinquennial average. The abatement in small-pox and measles continued ; 77 persons died of the former disease and 96 of the latter. Deaths from malaria, which numbered 1,218 in 1912-13, have steadily diminished during the last five years. The number of deaths from enteric fever rose from 142 in 1908 to 367 in 1912, but this gradual increase appears to be due to better diagnosis.

Vigorous steps were taken against the sale of adulterated and unwholesome food-stuffs, but complaints have been made that the fines inflicted on conviction were inadequate. The Corporation decided that vendors of food should forfeit their stalls in the municipal markets if twice convicted of selling adulterated or unwholesome goods.

Markets.

236. The income of the Sir Stuart Hogg market was Rs. 3,85,970 against Rs. 3,72,113 for the preceding year. In spite of recent improvements, the accommodation is still insufficient and schemes for further extensions are under preparation.

The income of the Lansdowne market rose to Rs. 3,111 from Rs. 2,627 for 1911-12, and its popularity steadily increases.

The Sir Charles Allen market also showed receipts nearly double those of 1911-12, viz., Rs. 4,523 against Rs. 2,836. Great structural improvements are being made, but the market is never likely to be profitable since there is no room for its expansion.

Municipal Magistrate's Court.

237. The number of cases for disposal in the Municipal Magistrate's Court during 1912-13 was 20,430, of which 16,512 cases ended in conviction with a total of Rs. 93,800 in fines against 17,311 convictions and Rs. 81,500 in fines for 1911-12. There were 830 food adulteration cases, in 24 of which simple imprisonment was ordered.

Hackney Carriage Department.

238. The number of hackney carriages registered in 1912-13 was 3,400 against 3,626 of 1911-12. The transfer of the trial of cases under the Hackney Carriage Act from the Municipal Magistrate's Court to the different Police Courts was reported to result in delay in the disposal of cases, in consequence of which the number of prosecutions fell from 2,567 to 1,892, and the amount of fines realized diminished by nearly 30 per cent. The question of amending the Hackney Carriage Act is still under consideration.

District Boards.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1912-13. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Meetings of District and Local Boards.

239. The 25 District Boards in the Presidency held 387 meetings during the year, as compared with 379 in 1911-12 ; of these 10, as against 18 in the previous year, had to be adjourned for want of a quorum. The number of members was 509, of whom 132 were *ex-officio*, 168 nominated, and 209 elected. In 1911-12 there were 210 elected members.

By the creation of a new Local Board at Gopalganj in Faridpur, the number of Local Boards rose to 72. They held 858 meetings, at 67 of which a quorum was not present. In the previous year, out of 856 meetings, 88 proved abortive.

Elections.

240. General elections were held in the districts of Jessore, Murshidabad, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Bakarganj and Pabna. At Burdwan the general election for the Sadar Local Board, which had not been finished in the previous year, was completed. In one thana of Murshidabad, in seven of Jessore, in one of Faridpur, and in one of Pabna, the elections failed, and the resulting vacancies were filled by nomination.

Powers of District and Local Boards.

241. Effect was given during the year to the orders of Government, noticed in last year's report, restricting the supervision by Commissioners over the budgets of District Boards and allowing the Boards to reappropriate budget grants from one minor head to another of the same major head, with the general sanction of the Commissioner given at the time when the Budget is passed.

District Boards moreover were given increased power to sanction estimates up to any amount for repairs and for new works up to Rs. 10,000, Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 1,500 according as the Board is of the first, second or third class.

Local Boards were given full powers to prepare detailed budgets and to make allotments for works according to local needs. For this purpose District Boards are to grant lump sums to them in future. The transfer of the control of all roads in the Asansol subdivision to the Asansol Local Board was noticed in last year's report.

A proposal by the Khulna District Board to transfer to the Local Boards under them the control of primary schools, *maktabs*, girls' schools and *tols* is now under the consideration of Government.

Union Committees.

242. In the Burdwan Division one Union was abolished, five were created and one divided into two. In the Presidency Division, one new Union was formed, and those existing in the 24-Parganas were reconstituted. There are now 61 Committees in the Presidency.

The total income of the Committees was Rs. 40,451, and their expenditure Rs. 35,485, against Rs. 29,992 and Rs. 27,262 in 1911-12. The funds were derived chiefly from District Board grants, but the receipts under the Cattle Trespass Act and from taxation under section 118(*c*) of the Local Self-Government Act were more than double those of the previous year. The largest amount expended by any one Union was Rs. 2,875, spent by the Feni Union in Noakhali. Eight other Committees spent over Rs. 1,000, but three failed to spend anything. On the whole the work of the Unions was better than in previous years.

Financial Results.

243. The year opened with a credit balance of Rs. 23,46,635. The receipts of District Boards from all sources amounted to Rs. 71,70,761, and the expenditure to Rs. 65,46,036, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 29,71,360. The income and expenditure for the last two years under the main heads are shown below :—

INCOME.					EXPENDITURE.				
	1911-12.		1912-13.			1911-12.		1912-13.	
		Percentage of total income.		Percentage of total income.			Percentage of total expenditure.		Percentage of total expenditure.
	Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.	
Land Revenue ...	287	·004	236	·003	Administration ...	2,03,666	3·1	2,17,548	3·3
Provincial rates ...	29,16,562	43·3	29,20,509	40·7	Local rate	...	...	154	·002
Interest	17,150	·2	16,798	·2	Law and Justice ...	1,957	·02	1,494	·02
Law and Justice ...	2,163	·03	4,909	·07	Police	23,586	·3	22,898	·3
Police	3,62,474	5·3	3,68,007	5·1	Ports and Pilotage ...	15,427	·2	7,954	·1
Education	7,22,262	10·7	11,73,710	16·3	Education	14,52,256	21·9	16,57,920	25·3
Medical	61,659	·9	70,615	·9	Medical	3,52,801	5·3	3,87,088	5·9
Minor Departments...	15,451	·2	11,685	·15	Minor Departments...	64,520	·9	65,283	·9
Stationery	1,928	·02	1,579	·02	Superannuation ...	51,158	·7	49,675	·7
Miscellaneous ...	2,85,450	4·2	3,60,042	5·2	Stationery	28,001	·4	22,868	·3
Railways	46,302	·6	90,847	1·2	Miscellaneous ...	30,773	·4	20,170	·3
Irrigation	22,773	·3	24,988	·3	Famine relief ...	...	...	70	·001
Civil works	15,47,538	22·9	12,33,465	17·8	Minor works	1,08,415	1·6	47,461	·7
Loans	60,000	·8	80,000	1·1	Civil works	37,37,234	56·4	35,20,385	53·7
Deposits, etc. ...	6,67,703	9·9	7,63,376	10·6	Interest, etc.	3,766	·05	6,732	·13
					Repayment of loans	13,235	·2	15,866	·2
					Deposits	5 31,030	8·01	5,02,520	7·6
Total ...	67,29,752	...	71,70,761	...	Total ...	66,22,857	...	65,46,036	...

Hitherto the income of District Boards has been derived chiefly from the road cess receipts. But since the close of the year grants equal to the entire receipts of the public works cess have been made to these bodies, and certain annually recurring contributions from Government have been withdrawn.

INCOME.

Provincial Rates.

244. The income from Provincial Rates increased by Rs. 3,947. Receipts decreased in the Burdwan Division by Rs. 32,530 owing to short collections of cess on mines due to dulness in the coal market, and in the Presidency Division by Rs. 13,796 owing to establishment charges for the general revaluation in Jessore. In the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions, they increased by Rs. 27,377, Rs. 14,198 and Rs. 8,698 respectively.

Police (pounds).

245. The number of pounds rose from 3,855 to 4,009, and the receipts from Rs. 3,62,474 to Rs. 3,68,007. In Midnapore 127 new pounds were established owing to the independent settlement of branch pounds; but the unwillingness of the people to impound cattle led to decreased receipts. The "Band Rakhale" system, mentioned in last year's report as prevailing in Tippera, has been found to exist in certain parts of Birbhum where pounds are too far apart. But neither in this district nor in Tippera has the number of pounds largely increased. In Bakarganj receipts were low because there was no healthy competition among prospective lessees.

Ferries.

246. The receipts from Ferries increased by Rs. 16,352. The largest increase (of Rs. 9.891) was in Dacca and was due to realization of arrears. In the 24-Parganas a new ferry was established.

Loans.

247. The 24-Parganas District Board took Rs. 40,000 as the second and last instalment of the loan of Rs. 60,000 from Government for constructing feeder roads to the Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway. The Dinajpur District Board borrowed a like sum from Government for the construction of permanent bridges.

EXPENDITURE.

Administration.

248. The total expenditure on administration increased by Rs. 8,882. The cost of office establishment rose from Rs. 1,39,505 to Rs. 1,41,471 and contingencies from Rs. 69,161 to Rs. 75,388.

Education.

249. The total expenditure on education rose from Rs. 14,52,256 to Rs. 16,57,920 which is more than 25 per cent. of the whole expenditure of the District Boards. The increase was common to all divisions and was due in part to payments from the special Imperial Grant for the equipment of primary schools. These numbered 24,967 and a sum of Rs. 4,62,466 or nearly 60 per cent. of the total spent on education was expended upon them as compared with Rs. 1,92,827 in the previous year. The expenditure on the maintenance of middle schools was Rs. 68,872 against Rs. 65,473 in 1911-12.

The Equilibrium Grants hitherto made to District Boards and used chiefly for promoting education have been withdrawn, in consideration of the allocation of the public works cess.

Special Schools.

250. The seven technical schools maintained by District Boards showed generally little progress, and the number of their students decreased. A proposal for provincializing the Kashi Kishore Institution at Mymensingh is under consideration. The weaving school formerly attached to it was removed to Tangail where it made a promising start. Other weaving schools exist at Bankura, Malda and Gopalganj in Faridpur.

Medical.

251. Medical relief received somewhat more attention than in previous years. The expenditure rose from Rs. 3,52,801 to Rs. 3,87,083. The number of dispensaries maintained by District Boards rose from 119 to 144 and the number aided by them fell from 237 to 217. No dispensaries were maintained by any District Board in the Chittagong Division or by the Murshidabad District Board, which however made contributions to four municipal dispensaries.

The Burdwan and Birbhum District Boards maintained temporary fever dispensaries, including a floating dispensary on the Bhagirathi River between

Kalna and Katwa. All the District Boards of the Rajshahi Division made contributions for medical relief and deputed supernumerary medical officers to districts in which epidemics broke out. In Bakarganj medical aid was provided for the people at *hâts*. In Mymensingh there were two *hât* dispensaries, and the experiment was tried of subsidizing private medical practitioners in remote districts; in return drugs will be supplied gratis to the poor and at rates fixed by the District Board to those able to pay.

Sanitation. 252. The expenditure on sanitation increased by Rs. 4,716, but was still quite inadequate. Four Boards spent over Rs. 3,000 each, but on the other hand there were three which spent nothing at all on sanitary measures. Mymensingh, with a population of nearly 4½ millions, spent only Rs. 526. In the Tangail subdivision a trial was given to the Patna system of village sanitation, but no payments could be made during the year. At Sarishabari the village Sanitary Committee again did good work with funds raised solely by local subscriptions. A promising sign was the local taxation by Union Committees, but the members shewed reluctance to enforce payment of the tax. The measures taken by District Boards were chiefly for the provision of conservancy arrangements at fairs and a few important centres.

Veterinary charges. 253. Veterinary charges rose from Rs. 36,844 to Rs. 39,070; Mymensingh again spent the largest amount (Rs. 5,563). The expenditure decreased in many districts, because Boards have to pay to Government only a fixed contribution for Veterinary Assistants, who now belong to the Provincial Service.

Railways. 254. Messrs. MacLeod & Co., who have undertaken to build the Burdwan-Katwa Railway, proposed that they should take up also the Ahmadpur-Katwa line; originally the Burdwan and Birbhum District Boards guaranteed 4 per cent. on a capital outlay of Rs. 12 lakhs to Messrs. James Luke & Sons for making this line. The matter is now before the Railway Board. A detailed survey was in progress for a light railway from Belda to Contai in Midnapore. In the 24-Parganas the profits of the District Board from the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway were Rs. 17,283, compared with Rs. 553 in 1911. The proposal of Messrs. Khetter Mohan Dey & Co. to construct a light railway from Kalighat to Fatehpur was accepted by this Board. The Jessore-Jhenidah Light Railway was under construction.

Civil Works. 255. The expenditure shewed a decrease of Rs. 2,16,849 shared by all divisions except Chittagong. Under "Communications—Original Works" the expenditure fell short of that in the previous year by Rs. 1,02,147, but under "Communications—Repairs" there was an increase of Rs. 41,465. In the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions the mileage of metalled, unmetalled, and village roads was increased by 11, 1,031, and 282, respectively; in Eastern Bengal the total mileage increased by 523.

Water-supply and Water-works. 256. The expenditure on water-supply and waterworks fell from Rs. 3,55,517 to Rs. 1,94,843. This large decrease was due to the expenditure in 1911-12 of Rs. 1,19,470 and Rs. 24,378 by the Bakarganj and Dacca District Boards on waterworks at Barisal and Munshiganj. Contributions were made by the District Boards concerned to waterworks at the following places: at Serampore (Rs. 5,000), at Bankura (Rs. 3,000), at Jessore (Rs. 5,000) and at Khulna (Rs. 2,000). The Bakarganj District Board paid the balance (Rs. 16,732) of its contribution to the Barisal waterworks. Mymensingh spent Rs. 33,771 on improving the village water-supply, but elsewhere little was done. Only Rs. 1,200 was spent in Jalpaiguri where the water-supply in villages is of special importance. Very little progress was made in preparing water-supply maps and registers. As a whole the year's work was disappointing, especially in view of the assistance offered by Government.

Drainage. 257. On drainage original works and repairs, Rs. 16,638 and Rs. 2,285 were spent as against Rs, 4,343 and Rs. 2,453 in 1911-12. But the increase marks no general advance, since no less than Rs. 15,009 out of the total expenditure was spent by the Tippera Board on excavating a *khal*. No District Board undertook regular drainage projects. The Magrahât Drainage Scheme will shortly be completed.

Arboriculture. 258. The expenditure decreased by Rs. 4,551 as compared with an increase of Rs. 4,655 in the previous year. In Bakarganj, Malda and Bogra

nothing was spent. The Hooghly and Howrah District Boards adopted a quinquennial programme, following the example of the Mymensingh Board.

Closing balances.

259. The closing balances, excluding deposits, totalled Rs. 21,08,889, against Rs. 16,30,370 in 1911-12. The increase, which was shared by all districts except Burdwan, Jessore, Tippera and Dinajpur, was largest in the 24-Parganas. But the balance in this district included Rs. 2 lakhs contributed in 1911-12 by Government for improving the Nawi and Sunthi rivers. It was explained that the increase in the Burdwan Division represented the unspent balance of the Imperial grant for education, and that in some other cases Boards failed to spend allotments for civil works and certain Government grants received at the close of the year. But such explanations are held inadequate to justify the increase of 25 per cent. in the closing balances which now equal almost half the ordinary expenditure. The failure of local bodies to make full use of their ample funds, in spite of greater freedom from control, is the most striking feature of the year's work.

Volunteers.

Total strength.

260. The total number of volunteers and reservists during the year 1912-13 was 7,522, of whom 7,480 qualified as efficients.

Marine.

[(1) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, for 1912-13.
(2) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Chittagong, for 1912-13.
(3) Annual Report on Shipping Offices for 1912-13.
(4) Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta for 1912.
(5) Administration Report of the Agent for Government Consignments for 1912-13.
(6) Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Commission for 1912-13.
(7) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, for 1912-13.
(8) Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge for 1912-13.
(9) Annual Report of the Bengal Steam-boiler Commission for 1912-13.
(10) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Chittagong, for 1912-13.]

PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Pilot service.

261. The strength of the service stood at 56 pilots and 14 leadsmen. Two branch pilots retired from service; one leadsman apprentice resigned and another was dismissed for misconduct. Two leadsmen apprentices were recruited from England.

Receipts from Pilotage.

262. The receipts from pilotage amounted to Rs. 15,33,673 against Rs. 14,76,000 in 1911-12.

Arrival and departure of vessels.

263. One thousand seven hundred and thirty vessels of a gross tonnage of 7,074,530 arrived, against 1,708 with a gross tonnage of 6,765,071; and 1,718 vessels with a gross tonnage of 7,019,679 left, against 1,704 with a gross tonnage of 6,750,128 in 1911-12.

Casualties to vessels.

264. There were 21 groundings against 23 in the previous year, and two collisions, the same number as in 1911-12. Six of the groundings were accidental, and four due to alteration in the channel of the river. In eight cases the pilot was not to blame. The remaining three groundings were due to errors of judgment or unskilfulness of the pilot. The pilots in fault were suitably dealt with by Government. One of the collisions was due to an error of judgment, and the other to the negligence of the pilot. No Court under Act XII of 1859 (the Calcutta Pilots Act, 1859) was held during the year.

Examinations in the port of Calcutta.

265. Out of 97 candidates 51 passed the examination for the grant of Colonial and Home Trade certificates of competency as master, mate or engineer, and 184 candidates out of 642 passed the examination for the grant of certificates of competency as master, serang, engineer and engine-driver, under the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1884.

Examinations at Goalundo and Chittagong.

266. Out of 136 candidates 67 passed the examinations held under the Indian Steam-vessels Act, 1884, at Chittagong and Goalundo, for the grant of certificates of competency as master, serang and engine-driver.

SHIPPING OFFICES AT CALCUTTA AND KIDDERPORE.

Finance.

267. The receipts of the Shipping Offices during the year amounted to Rs. 1,18,739 against Rs. 1,05,571 in 1911-12. The increase was chiefly due to receipts on account of discharging and overtime fees. The expenditure was Rs. 65,009 against Rs. 62,475, the increase being due to higher overtime charges.

Seamen shipped and discharged.

268. The number of seamen shipped and discharged at the Shipping Offices at Calcutta and Kidderpore, during the year 1912-13, as compared with 1911-12, is shown below :—

	1911-12.	1912-13.	Increase.	Decrease.
Shipped—				
European articles of agreement ...	780	851	71	...
Indian ditto ...	46,632	45,127	...	1,505
Discharged—				
European articles	870	1,229	359	...
Indian „	40,384	41,406	1,022	...

The number of Eurasian seamen shipped during the year under European and Indian articles were 96 and 371, respectively, an increase of 30 and 22 over the figures of the previous year.

Repatriation of seamen.

269. 119 seamen were repatriated under the Distressed Seamen's Regulations.

SHIPPING OFFICE AT CHITTAGONG.

Financial result.

270. The receipts of the Chittagong Shipping Office amounted to Rs. 1,092 against Rs. 1,004 and the expenditure to Rs. 767 against Rs. 708 in the preceding year.

Seamen shipped and discharged.

271. The number of seamen shipped and discharged was 145 and 988 against 162 and 843, respectively, in the previous year.

HEALTH OF THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Inspection of vessels.

272. The Health Officer inspected 722 inward-bound and 837 outward-bound vessels against 789 and 809 in the previous year. The numbers of crew and passengers passed or rejected were as below :—

		Passed.	Rejected.
Outward-bound vessels	Crew ...	63,428	92
	Passengers ...	22,113	60
Inward-bound vessels	Crew ...	45,136	...
	Passengers ...	3,280	...

Health of the seamen.

273. Six hundred and seventy-seven European seamen were admitted into hospital for various diseases and 14 died, against 624 and 13 in 1911. Cases of venereal diseases among European seamen numbered 65 against 67 in 1911. Deaths at sea numbered 10 against 13 in the previous year. The total number of deaths among Asiatic seamen was 95 or 3·67, against 111 or 4·29 per mille in 1911. Fifty-nine deaths were from cholera.

Disinfection of vessels.

274. There were 2 cases of plague in the port; 11 cases of small-pox and 14 cases of chicken-pox occurred on sea-going vessels. 13 cases of cholera were reported on inland steam-vessels and 11 on sea-going vessels. Only 1 case of measles occurred. There was an epidemic outbreak of dengue on the dredger *Sandpiper* and the S.P.V. *Lady Fraser*. The vessels affected were disinfected. There was no breach of Plague Regulations.

AGENCY FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS.

Finance.

275. The total receipts of the Agency were Rs. 4,75,453. The expenditure was Rs. 4,47,879.

276. The tonnage dealt with was— Tonnage handled.

Packages	...	...	531,819 (including 156,232 fire-bricks).
Tons ...	...	...	27,411

The value of freight bills passed was Rs. 4,14,645.

BENGAL SMOKE-NUISANCES COMMISSION.

277. The Chief and Assistant Inspectors made 4,683 observations of smoke emission against 4,463 in 1911-12. They visited 246 factories, and tested fuel and appliances. The provisions of the Act were extended to all the remaining areas within the local limits of the Tollygunge, Garden Reach and South Suburban municipalities in the district of the 24-Parganas. The total area under the jurisdiction of the Commission was thus raised to 64 square miles. There was a steady improvement in the abatement of the smoke-nuisance, and the average emission of dense smoke was still further reduced. A revised scale of limits of time for the emission of such smoke was adopted, which entirely prohibited, for the first time, the emission of smoke of the scale of greatest density. The making of coke without ovens or special appliances within the station of Howrah and the areas referred to above was prohibited from the 16th August 1912. Much difficulty was again experienced in dealing with the nuisance caused by the manufacture of coke in open fires, and by the emission of smoke from certain lime-kilns near the Hooghly. The number of prosecutions was 26 against 47 in the previous year. A conviction was obtained in every case. Rules providing for the examination of stokers and the grant of certificates of competency to them were sanctioned during the year. Inspections and observations.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

278. The income of the Trust was Rs. 1,42,46,317 and the expenditure Rs. 1,47,00,316. But this includes payments amounting to Rs. 1,54,049 which properly appertained to previous years; excluding these there was a net deficit of Rs. 2,99,950 on the year's work. The deficit was largely due to extra charges for interest and Sinking Fund payable on the loans raised from Government and the public for capital works. The expenditure on capital works was Rs. 39,90,856. Receipts and expenditure

279. The following were the most important works in progress or completed during the year :— New works.

Passenger landing stage at Outram ghât for ocean-going steamers.
New bridge over the boat canal with siding.
Improvement scheme on the north of the Howrah Bridge.
Reclamation of riverside lands.
Provision of 200 covered goods wagons for the Port Trust Railway.
New departmental Graving Dock and slipway.
Extension of accommodation in Dock No. 2.
New depôt for the Army Remount Department.
Construction of jetty and warehouse at No. 9 Jetty berth.
Hide Depôt for Messrs. Ernsthausen & Co.
Improvement and extension of the Petroleum Depôt at Budge-Budge.
Two riverside berths, Garden Reach.
Provision of a new suction dredger, one double ladder dredger and two hopper barges.

280. The capital debt of the Trust on the 31st March 1912 was Rs. 8,74,21,287. The amount of the Sinking Fund stood at Rs. 1,32,17,067. The value of the properties held by the Commissioners of the Port was Rs. 11,37,37,911. Capital account.

The Commissioners were authorized to raise a debenture loan of Rs. 50 lakhs bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent. per annum repayable in 30 years.

Financial result.

281. The following table shows in detail the income and expenditure of the Trust during the year 1912-13 as compared with those of the previous year :—

	1912-13.				1911-12.				DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 1912-13 AND 1911-12.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Control	11,660	10,01,673	...	9,90,013	10,365	9,26,029	...	9,15,764	...	74,249
II.—Jetties	18,86,697	10,23,673	8,63,024	...	15,76,784	8,72,696	7,04,088	...	1,58,936	...
III.—Tea Warehouse	2,27,332	1,21,539	1,05,793	...	1,74,596	1,03,801	70,795	...	34,998	...
IV.—Petroleum Wharf	4,02,737	47,002	3,55,735	...	2,86 480	60,752	2,25,728	...	1,30,007	...
V.—Inland Vessels Wharves ...	5,23,432	1,83,787	3,39,645	...	4,95.214	1,91,880	3,03,334	...	36,311	...
VI.—Rentable lands and buildings.	6,33,096*	2,00,158	4,32,938	...	18,44,107*	2,44,052	16,00,055	...	...	11,67,117
VII.—Port	5,89,035	5,45,949	43,086	...	5,78,905	5,11,173	67,732	...	....	24,646
VIII.—Port Approaches ...	7,98 682	6,12,905	1,85,777	...	7,79,078	5,66,434	2,12,644	...	...	26,876
IX.—Railway	15,71,721	11,83,460	3,88.261	...	14,03,086	10,97,865	3,05,221	...	83,040	...
X.—Wet Docks	42,87,651	32,76,006	10,11,645	...	32,81,463	29,19,699	3,61,764	...	6,49,881	...
XI.—Dry Docks	2,32,523	70,067	1,62,456	...	2,47,788	75,664	1,72,124	...	...	9,668
XII.—Ferry Service	3,39,321	2,99,267	40,054	...	2,77,586	2,26,862	50,724	...	...	10,670
XIII.—River Dues	25,01,943	...	25,01,943	...	24,11,431	...	24,11,431	...	90,512	...
Sale of unserviceable materials	47,629	...	47,629	...	43,050	...	43,050	...	4,573	...
Contribution from Howrah Bridge.	25,175	...	25,175	...	24,873	...	24,873	...	302	...
Interest on Revenue Reserve ...	1,11,108	...	1,11,108	...	1,11,004	...	1,11,004	...	104	...
Interest on Bank Balances ...	...	30,841	...	30,841	...	18,515	...	18,515	...	12,326
Amount payable by Capital to Revenue on account of haulage and maintenance of rolling stock including establishment employed on reclamation works chargeable to Capital.	56,575	...	56,575	...	44,692	...	44,692	...	11,883	...
Interest and Sinking Fund charges.	...	58,49,940	...	58,49,940	...	54,17,300	...	54,17,300	...	4,32,640
Contribution to Depreciation and Fire Insurance Funds.	...	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	...	1,02,000	...	1,02,000	2,000	...
Reconstruction of Jetty at 60 feet River Entrance.	...	18,375	...	18,375	...	2,493	...	2,493	...	15,882
Removal of wrecks	...	...	...	...	...	1,725	...	1,725	1,725	...
Expenditure booked during the year 1912-13, but properly chargeable to previous year.	...	1,35,674	...	1,35,674	...	...	...	...	...	1,35,674
Total ...	1,42,46,317	1,47,09,316	...	...	1,35,90,408	1,33,38,940	...	...	...	...

* The difference is due to allocation of the total revenue under this head between Sections II, III, IV and X carried out for the first time in the year 1912-13.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

Receipts and charges.

282. The income of the Howrah bridge during the year 1912-13 was Rs. 2,71,724 and the expenditure Rs. 2,23,890. There was a surplus of Rs. 47,834, against Rs. 27,258 in the previous year. The receipts from railway traffic rose from Rs. 2,15,934 to Rs. 2,50,022. The bridge was opened on 282 occasions, of which 52 were during the day time and 230 at night. 3,837 vessels passed through the bridge against 3,424 in 1911-12.

CHITTAGONG PORT TRUST.

Receipts and Expenditure.

283. The ordinary receipts of the Port Fund, exclusive of grants from Government for dredging and revetment, were Rs. 2,29,361 against Rs. 1,89,128 for the previous year, an increase of 21·27 per cent. This was chiefly due to receipts (Rs. 46,980) on account of customs duty on jute.

newly sanctioned by Government with effect from the 1st July 1912. There were noticeable increases also under the heads "Port" and "River dues," indicating greater activity in the trade of the port. The capital value of the Port Commissioners' properties was estimated at the end of the year to be Rs. 35,36,306 as against Rs. 34,83,336 at the close of 1911-12. The ordinary expenditure of the Port Fund was Rs. 1,79,758 as against Rs. 1,77,429 during the previous year. The annual equated instalments of previous loans, aggregating Rs. 36,172-11-7, were paid from the Port Fund. The outstanding balance of loans on the 31st March 1913 was Rs. 5,82,340-13-8. The capital expenditure incurred from the Port Fund was Rs. 13,084 only.

Revetment.

284. Government grants for the revetment work up to the end of the year 1911-12 amounted to Rs. 16,13,895, which, together with Rs. 58,000, the grant for 1912-13, raised the total to Rs. 16,71,895. The total expenditure on revetment from 1904-05 to end of 1912-13 has been Rs. 21,61,285, deducting the receipts from the hire of barges and steamers and the sale-proceeds of land, old stock, etc.

Dredging.

285. The quantity of dredging done was the highest on record. The expenditure on the maintenance of the dredger was Rs. 88,000. The total credited to account was Rs. 1,50,221, including a Government grant of Rs. 92,000. The question of providing a second dredger is under the consideration of Government.

Arrival and departure of vessels.

286. The number of vessels (including native sailing-vessels) that entered the port rose from 388 with a nett registered tonnage of 367,048 to 811 with a nett registered tonnage of 406,038. The increase is mainly due to the fact that the vessels of the Rivers Steam Navigation and the India General Navigation and Railway Companies and the Retriever Flotilla Company were taken into account for the first time. 820 vessels with a nett tonnage of 409,277 left the port. There were five accidents to vessels; two were cases of fire on board, vessels, one of grounding, one of collision, and one was due to a cyclone.

Health of the Port.

287. The general sanitation of the port was satisfactory.

BENGAL STEAM-BOILER COMMISSION.

Extension of the Act.

288. The provisions of the Bengal Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act, 1879, were extended to the Municipality of Chandpur from the 28th August 1912 and to the districts of Nadia and Pabna from the 8th January 1913.

Inspection of boilers.

289. 5,181 boilers were on the registers for Calcutta and other places within the jurisdiction of the Commission. The number inspected and certified was 4,317 (including 38 twice presented for inspection) against 4,132 in the previous year. 146 were struck off the registers, as they had not been presented for inspection for five years or had been removed out of jurisdiction or condemned. The remaining 756 were not presented for inspection, being either temporarily out of use or under repairs.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th June 1913.]

Administration.

290. The work of the Department was much hampered by the absence on leave of the Fibre Expert, Mr. R. S. Finlow, owing to ill-health. No officer of the Imperial Department of Agriculture was available in his place, and his work was carried on, so far as possible, by the Agricultural Chemist and the Economic Botanist besides their other duties. Experience has shown that the superior staff of the Department is inadequate for the task of improving the agricultural conditions of this Presidency. The creation of a separate post of Agricultural Chemist for Bengal was sanctioned by the Government of India, and application was made for the services of a second Deputy Director of Agriculture. If this appointment be sanctioned, it will be possible to make a considerable advance in organizing agricultural work and in disseminating among cultivators the results already achieved. Pending the constitution of regular Provincial and Subordinate Agricultural Services, two graduates in agriculture, one from Edinburgh and the other from Cornell University in the United States of America, were appointed Agricultural Supervisors on probation.

Agricultural Education.

291. There is no agricultural college in this Presidency. But so few Bengalis avail themselves of the training at the Sabour College that the establishment of an agricultural college in connection with the Dacca University has for the present been abandoned. Agricultural education was thus limited to nature study in primary schools, the results of which were generally disappointing. Some progress was made in Jessore and Khulna, but as yet few schools have suitable gardens.

Research and experiment.

292. No definite results were attained from Mr. Finlow's work on the classification of jute races, but his experiments as to manures for jute suggested that on land where bonemeal and lime are used, jute and mustard can both be profitably grown in the same year. Mr. Meggitt's work on sugarcane was successful, and as a result of the soil treatment adopted, the outturn of cane has risen during the last five years from 10 to 30 tons per acre. The use of lime and bonemeal at the Dacca farm has had remarkable effects, particularly in the case of *rabi* crops, and it is hoped that the experiments will yield definite results as to the residual value of manuring over a number of years. Green manuring experiments were also continued, and the cowpea proved itself by far the most useful plant for this purpose. Mr. Hector's important botanical work in connection with the rice crop showed that natural cross-fertilization takes place to a much greater extent than was at first supposed, and a few successful crosses were obtained. Special attention was paid to the higher yielding varieties. Researches as to the *ufra* disease of paddy, which appeared on a considerable scale in some of the deltaic districts of Eastern Bengal, showed that it is caused by an eelworm of the genus *Tylenchus*, allied to worms which cause well-known diseases of other cereals. An attempt is being made to work out a feasible scheme for dealing with the evil, but the problem, which is of the utmost importance to the welfare of the province, is one of much difficulty.

At the Burirhat farm in Rangpur remarkable results were achieved in the growth of good class cigar tobacco, for which high prices were obtained from cigar manufacturers in Madras and Trichinopoly. But as there is no local market for such tobacco, no great practical benefit will result to the ordinary cultivators, unless a connection can be established between them and the manufacturers in Southern India.

293. M. Lafont, the French expert in hybridization, who was appointed for a term of three years, was unfortunately compelled by ill-health to leave India after little more than a year. Another expert, M. Grangeon, who has had experience of silk work in Madagascar, was appointed to succeed him. The scheme, noticed in last year's Report, for the supply of seed free from disease throughout the Presidency under Government supervision was considered at a special meeting of the Bengal Silk Committee and was accepted as the basis of future work for assisting the silk industry. A number of the existing smaller nurseries were closed during the year, and steps were taken to convert others into enlarged and improved central nurseries with rearing houses complete. **Sericulture.**

294. Most useful work was done during the year by Mr. T. Southwell, the Deputy Director of Fisheries. Knowledge of the habits of *hilsa* was materially extended, and definite results as to the breeding habits of this fish are expected from the survey now in progress as to its distribution in the main rivers of this Presidency and of Bihar and Orissa. The investigation of carp culture has not yet led to any positive conclusions, but a good deal was done to encourage the traffic in carp fry and to spread information as to the causes of unsuccessful results in breeding. Enquiries were also begun into the breeding habits of other fresh-water fish of commercial importance. **Fisheries.**

295. Besides the Provincial Agricultural Association, there are two Divisional, 13 District and 5 Branch Associations. Only a small proportion of the members of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisional Associations interested themselves in the work of the Associations. During the year 22 agricultural shows were held in different parts of the province to which were given grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 4,100. **Agricultural Associations.**

296. About 334 acres of land were acquired at Rangpur for a mixed farm where the difficult problems connected with the breeding and maintenance of cattle in highly cultivated tracts will be investigated. The only feasible economic remedy so far suggested for the increasing encroachment of cultivation on pasture lands in the greater part of Bengal is the adoption of some form of mixed farming. In order to introduce this new departure, it will be necessary to show the ordinary cultivator that for successful agriculture attention must be paid to stock as well as to crops. **Miscellaneous.**

297. The experiment of basing the jute forecast on a detailed census by panchayats of the jute in each union was repeated. The checking of their returns was further organized, and though still incomplete, undoubtedly enabled more trustworthy figures as to area to be published than previously. Further measures for improving both the forecast and jute cultivation generally are now under consideration. **The Jute Forecast.**

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1912-13. Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial.]

298. The following table shows the number of societies during the year as compared with the preceding year :— **Development**

Year.	Central.			Non-Agricultural.					Agricultural.		Total number of societies.	Number of members.	Capital (excluding value of grain).
				Limited.			Unlimited.						
	Pure type.	Mixed type.	Capitalist type.	Credit.	Productive.	Other forms.	Credit.	Productive.	Credit.	Distributive (grains).			
													Rs.
1911-12	6	4	2	50	1	1	3	1	869	2	939	40,636	26,02,709
1912-13	6	9	2	60	1	3	3	1	1,034	2	1,121	57,027	46,09,559

This marked increase occurred in spite of the Registrar's policy of consolidation and the readjustment and improvement of the machinery of finance and control, which resulted in an increase in the number of Central Banks

and the conversion of four non-agricultural (urban) Banks into Central Banking Unions.

Central Societies.

299. It is now generally recognized that in every area where the movement shows signs of expansion, a competent central agency should be created for the financing and supervision of societies. Efforts in this direction have resulted in an increase of effective central societies from 7 to 17, and the doubling of their working capital, which now amounts to nearly Rs. 14 lakhs. All these societies are not equally efficient; some rely too much on paid officials or on one or two prominent members, but others evince a true co-operative spirit. The work done by the directors and share-holders of several central unions in organizing and supervising rural societies was most valuable and encouraging. The main difficulty of the central unions is their lack of fluid capital, to supply which the creation of a provincial co-operative Bank is contemplated.

Non-agricultural Societies.

300. The number of non-agricultural societies, hitherto generally known as urban societies, increased from 56 to 68, their membership from 8,445 to 11,945, and the working capital from Rs. 5 lakhs to over Rs. 9½ lakhs. The majority of these societies work on the principle of limited liability, and the absence of a true co-operative spirit is one of their weak points. But considerable improvement was effected by the introduction of a statutory rule under the Act, limiting dividends paid by societies to 12½ per cent.

Agricultural Societies.

301. The development of agricultural societies was most satisfactory. The Raiffeisen principle which has been followed in its main essentials proved itself thoroughly suitable to rural conditions in Bengal, and there is no need for innovations or experiments with other types. Several new areas were opened out in Pabna district, Feni and Tangail. There has been development in Midnapore, Gaibandha and Faridpur, and the movement has been introduced into the subdivisions of Brahmanbaria and Chandpur and into the district of Jalpaiguri. The number of societies increased from 871 to 1,036, the membership from 30,756 to 42,553, and the working capital from Rs. 14,71,000 to Rs. 22,76,000. Loans amounting to Rs. 14,11,074 were granted as against Rs. 9,89,462 in 1911-12. Most of the loans taken by the members of the agricultural societies were for reproductive objects and for repaying debts, and comparatively few for expenditure on social ceremonies. In some areas the societies by providing a substitute for the village *mahajans* compelled the latter to improve their methods and to reduce exorbitant rates of interest. Interesting developments were the starting of village schools by societies and the practice of giving regular contributions to other village institutions.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and crop report of Bengal for 1912-13; Crop forecasts of Bengal for 1912-13. Agricultural statistics of India, Volume I.]

Character of the Season.

302. In March the rainfall was up to the average: in April it was a little above the normal in the western districts and much in excess in the eastern districts. In May and June the fall was approximately normal with a tendency to defect; but in July it was generally excessive excepting in the Chittagong, Burdwan and Dacca Divisions, where it was below the normal. In August and September it was defective, but it was above the normal in October and November. There was no rain in December. In January 1913, light showers fell in a few districts. This was succeeded by a good fall in February.

The rainfall during the year was on the whole favourable to the crops, except that the heavy rains in Eastern Bengal in the month of April interfered somewhat with the sowings of jute in the Eastern Bengal districts. Cyclonic weather prevailed during the latter part of October and the first part of November, slightly damaging winter rice and sugarcane in some places. The growth of the *rabi* crops suffered to some extent owing to total absence of rain in December and scanty rainfall in January. The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1912-13 of *Bhadoi*, *Aghan*

and *Rabi* crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year.

Name of Harvests.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1911-12 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1912-13 in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year.	
				1911-12.	1912-13.
Bhadoi	6,801,300	6,339,100	6,211,200	87	87
Aghani { Winter rice.	16,075,300	14,963,900	15,313,900	103	98
Aghani { Sugarcane	250,300	223,300	221,800	88	91
Rabi	3,832,800	3,169,200	3,109,900	79	83
Total ...	26,959,700	24,695,500	24,856,800	...	...

303. Sowings of *Bhadoi* crops were for the most part finished in normal time, but excessive rain in the early part of the season and insufficient rain later on somewhat retarded the growth of the crops. Some damage was done by excessive rain and floods on low lands in July and by drought in September in parts of the Presidency, Rajshahi and Dacca Divisions. Injury by insect-pests and rats was also reported from Jessore, Khulna and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The outturn of the different *Bhadoi* crops excepting jute and cotton was estimated at 87 per cent. of the normal as in the previous year. **Bhadoi or Autumn crops.**

304. Jute sowings were commenced earlier than usual on low lands, but excessive rainfall in April seriously retarded the work in the Eastern Bengal districts. Weeding was also interfered with on lands already sown. There was no rise of river levels till July, and in this respect the season was favourable. Rivers were late in rising and consequently the harvest was somewhat late. The season was on the whole favourable to the crop throughout the presidency, especially in the western districts. It was estimated that there was an increase in acreage of 202,250 acres, and the outturn was estimated to be 96 per cent. of the normal against 88 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage for 1911 is, however, an underestimate and cannot be profitably compared with the percentage of the year under report. The district acreage figures have also been revised by taking a field census. **Jute.**

305. The season was generally favourable for the preparation of winter rice seed-beds and for ploughing. Transplantation commenced at the normal time throughout the presidency, excepting in the Chittagong Division, where the work was delayed owing to insufficient rainfall. The crop was slightly damaged by the cyclonic storm in October. Little damage was done by floods during the months of July and August. The increase in cultivation was estimated to be 350,000 acres, and the outturn was estimated to be 98 per cent. of the normal. **Winter or *Aman* rice.**

306. Weather conditions were generally favourable at the time of sugarcane planting, but not subsequently. Some damage was done by the heavy rain in April, and in a few districts of Eastern Bengal by insect-pests. A cyclonic storm also caused some damage. The outturn was estimated at 91 per cent. of the normal. **Sugarcane.**

307. For the *rabi* crops conditions were not quite favourable though better than in the previous year. During December there was no rain and in January the fall was insufficient, which adversely affected the growth of the crops. The prospects improved later and the outturn was estimated to be 83 per cent. of the normal. **Rabi or Spring Crops.**

308. Very little cotton is grown in this presidency. Weather conditions were not favourable to the growth of this crop, and there was a decrease of 11,850 acres reported in cultivation. The outturn was estimated to be 20,557 bales against 25,063 bales last year. **Cotton.**

309. The total area under different crops shows a slight increase in cultivation. The area cropped was reported to be 30,498,300 acres against **Area under cultivation.**

30,436,800 returned for the previous year. Figures for the principal crops are given in the following table :—

Names of Crops.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1911-12 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1912-13 in acres.
Rice	22,216,900	20,960,900	21,166,000
Other food-grains including pulses ...	1,790,700	1,416,700	1,345,300
Jute	2,643,800	2,737,700	2,927,100
Oilseeds	2,222,100	1,887,800	1,822,200
Tobacco	405,600	306,300	313,700
Sugarcane... ...	250,300	222,600	221,800

Prices.

310. The most important staples of this presidency are rice and jute. The prices of both these articles ruled higher than in the previous year. The price of winter rice varied from Rs. 3-1 per maund at Rajshahi to Rs. 5-10 per maund at Hooghly, and that of autumn rice from Rs. 2-11 per maund at Malda, to Rs. 5 per maund at Chittagong. The highest price obtaining for jute was Rs. 11 per maund, whereas the lowest was Rs. 5-12 per maund. Food-stocks were reported to be sufficient.

Cattle.

311. The cattle census of the previous year showed that the number of bulls and bullocks in the province was 9,562,760, the number of cows, 7,376,172 and the number of young stock, 8,385,168.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other gardens in Calcutta, and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden in Darjeeling for the year 1912-13.]

Royal Botanic Garden, Sibpur. General.

312. Weather conditions were on the whole good, but a violent hailstorm, early in the year did much damage to the glass houses in the nursery at the Royal Botanic Garden, Sibpur. These houses were repaired and painted, work was begun on two bridges over the Shadir Lake, which had become unsightly and dilapidated, and the rubbish pits were filled in after the arrival of a light railway. The work of revetting the river bank still continued, although it usurped time and labour which could ill be spared.

Plant and seed exchange.

313. In all 7,157 plants were received from other places, including a valuable collection of orchids from Messrs. Sander and Sons, St. Albans. Of the 33,187 plants sent out, over 12,000 went to Local Boards and the Public Works Department for lining roads and for arboricultural purposes. Of the remainder many went to Government and charitable institutions and to botanical and horticultural gardens in India and abroad. Over 1,726 packets of seeds were received from abroad and 5,419 packets sent out during the year under report.

Herbarium and Library.

314. Collections from all over the world were acquired by gift or purchase for the Herbarium. Altogether about 14,000 sheets were added, but fewer sheets were sent out than usual. A large number however, were being prepared for distribution. The re-arranging, classifying, and indexing of books, periodicals, and pamphlets have been undertaken.

Publications.

315. No addition was actually made to the issued list of the Annals of the Royal Botanic Garden, but the appendix to volume XI and a revised index to the species and plates contained in this volume and in the appendix to it will appear soon. The following records of the Botanical Survey of India were issued—Volume IV, No. 7.—The Alpine and Sub-Alpine Vegetation of South-East Sikkim, by Mr. W. W. Smith, M.A. ; Volume V, No. 4—Catalogue of Non-Herbaceous Phanerogams cultivated in this garden, by Major A. T. Gage, I.M.S. ; Volume VI, No. 1.—Piperaceæ Novæ e Peninsula Malayana, by C. de Candolle.

Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling.

316. In Darjeeling, in spite of excessive rain and of a snow-storm in March 1912, which damaged a large number of trees, the year was quite favourable from a horticultural point of view. Every endeavour was made to add to and improve the collection of plants in the Lloyd Botanic Garden and the means of access to them. Some 224 trees and plants were removed

from the nursery for want of space. The collection and distribution of seeds, plants, and bulbs now constitute a special feature of the work of this garden, and it is noted that during the year under report the commercial retail value of seeds and plants distributed equalled the whole budget allotment for the year; 20,804 plants, 6,426 dozen seedlings, 4,462 bulbs, and 1,746 packets of seeds were distributed, besides the usual indigenous collections sent to Calcutta.

317. In the Eden gardens, Calcutta, the *jheel*, which had been silted up, was emptied and thoroughly cleansed with the aid of the Calcutta Fire Brigade. The lawn in front of the band stand was double-trenched and re-sown with *dubh* grass, and the usual expert attention was given to the display of flowers. In the Curzon gardens in addition to routine work new drains were made and the lawn on the west side was raised by the soil taken from the Eden Garden *jheel*. The Dalhousie Square gardens were improved by the laying out of a new road on the south side. **Calcutta gardens.**

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

318. The rainfall on the Mungpoo plantation during the year under report was 128·04 inches, which is 6 inches above the average. The only remarkable feature was the unprecedented fall in November 1912, 13·38 inches in all, of which 9·96 inches fell in one day. On the Munsong plantations the rainfall (106·80 inches) was as usual less than on the sister plantation, but it was above the average (92·82) for the previous 12 years. **General.**

319. The total area on both plantations under cinchona at the close of the year was 1,779½ acres, which represents an increase of 221½ acres on the previous year. Over this area 2,853,852 plants are distributed, and the total harvest of 216,978 uprooted trees on the two plantations yielded 611,338 lbs. of dry bark. This gives an average of 2·81 lbs. per tree. **Plantation.**

320. The total quantity of bark worked up in the factory was 758·231 lbs. The products yielded were 43,853 lbs. sulphate of quinine, 1 lb. 4 oz. cinchonidine sulphate, 6,949 lbs. 12 oz. cinchona febrifuge, and 299 lbs. 11 oz. residual alkaloids. The total outturn of the factory was therefore 51,103 lbs. 11 oz. against 48,388 lbs. 12 oz. of the previous year. **Outturn.**

During the year under report the Government of India made a special grant of Rs. 3 lakhs for the creation of a quinine reserve while the market price was low. With this money about 29,103 lbs. of quinine were purchased at an average rate of Rs. 8-7-5 per lb. The stock of quinine at the close of the year amounted to 132,374 lbs. for the storage of which a fire-proof building with a ferro-concrete floor 2 feet above ground level, was constructed at a cost of Rs. 6,000.

Forests.

[Forest Administration Report for the year 1912-13. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*).—Finance and Revenue.]

321. Owing to the recomputation of the areas in the Sunderbans reserved forest from the most recent maps, a nominal addition of 208 square miles was made to the area under reserved forest, which is now returned as 4,888 square miles. Some progress was made in the important work of demarcating boundaries in the Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts Divisions, but much still remains to be done. Surveys by local Forest Officers were made in all forest divisions. A revised working-plan for the reserved forests of the Darjeeling Division was sanctioned. It was decided to retain the Chakaria Sunderbans in the Chittagong Division as a reserved forest and a revised working-plan was sanctioned for a period of eight years. **Administration.**

322. Steady progress was made in improving communications and buildings. Seventeen miles of cart-road were constructed at a cost of Rs. 8,596, 43 miles of bridle-path at a cost of Rs. 8,645, and 14 miles of foot-path at a cost of Rs. 870. Paths and roads were aligned for subsequent construction in Darjeeling, Kurseong, Jalpaiguri and Buxa. The amount spent on road repairs was Rs. 17.405. The Kurseong Forest School was improved and **Communications and buildings.**

eight new rest-houses were constructed in Tista, Kurseong, Jalpaiguri, Buxa, Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts. The total expenditure on new buildings and on repairs was Rs 65,809 against Rs. 50,461 for 1911-12.

Forest offences. 323. The number of forest offences reported was 1,572 against 1,539 in the preceding year. The average for the preceding three years was 1,450. The increase was largely due to undetected cases, and efforts are being made to obtain a complete record of these.

Protection from fires. 324. The measures taken against fires were very successful; only 1,643 acres, mainly grass lands, were burnt, as compared with 2,642 acres last year.

Protection from cattle. 325. During the year 18·6 per cent. of reserved forest, 3 per cent. of protected forest and the entire area of unclassed forest were open to grazing. The number of cattle impounded was 2,221 against an average of 1,601 for the previous three years. The chief increase, in Kurseong, was due to more systematic impounding.

Exploitation. 326. A considerable advance was made in the commercial exploitation of the Bengal forests. A concession, from which important results are expected, was granted to Messrs. Burn and Company for the extraction of timber and bamboo from the forests of the Darjeeling, Tista and Kurseong Divisions. Another agreement with the same firm for the extraction of timber from parts of the Buxa Forest Division was ratified after the close of the year, and negotiations were in progress for a concession for extracting bamboos for paper pulp from the reserved forests in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. A license was granted to the Chief Medical Officer of the Assam-Bengal Railway for the collection of *Chaulmugra (Taraktogenos Kurzii)* seeds in portions of the forests of the Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts Divisions.

Financial results. 327. The total revenue was Rs. 15,51,650 against Rs. 14,49,441 in the previous year and the expenditure Rs. 6,46,189 against Rs. 6,69,595. The surplus was Rs. 9,05,461 as compared with Rs. 7,79,846 in 1911-12 and Rs. 6,72,656 the average of the past five years. All divisions, except the Chittagong Hill Tracts, contributed to the increase in the revenue, which was mainly due to the realization of large arrears from the previous year.

Manufactures and Mines.

[Statistics of British India, Part I.—Industrial.]

Jute. 328. In the year 1912 the estimated acreage under jute was 2,536,888 and the yield 8,698,297 bales. It was a prosperous year for the industry generally: the number of mills rose to 60, employing a daily average of 199,325 persons and large extensions of machinery were made. Most factories adopted a working week of six days and many worked for 13½ hours daily under the new shift system. The nominal rupee and sterling capital employed was Rs. 7,63,05,000 and £ 2,856,358, and the paid up capital, Rs. 6,78,68,945 and £ 2,696,894.

Cotton. 329. Thirteen cotton mills were at work in 1912 employing 11,425 persons as against 14 mills and 9,348 persons in 1911. The industry as a whole flourished. The nominal capital employed was Rs. 1,02,00,000 and £ 200,000.

Tea. 330. The area under tea in 1912 was 150,497 acres, and the quantity of tea manufactured, chiefly black, was 70,524,169lbs. compared with 64,653,923lbs. in 1911. There were 374 plantations, employing a daily average of 92,162 permanent and 32,250 temporary hands. Foreign exports by sea were valued at Rs. 11,79,92,085, which constitutes a fresh record.

Coal. 331. One hundred and sixty-five coal mines were worked during the year 1912, compared with 154 in the previous year. The total output from these mines was 4,306,129 tons, or 447,555 tons more than the quantity raised in 1911. The expansion of the industry since the set-back it met with in the year 1909 has continued steadily and 18 mines were opened while only 3 were closed during the year under review. The daily average number of persons employed in the collieries of Bengal rose from 33,931 to 36,828.

Iron. 332. In the Burdwan district 9,882 tons of iron ore, valued at £ 1,350, were produced, as compared with 5,456 tons, valued at £ 780, in 1911.

333. The three licensed saltpetre refineries produced 7,958 maunds of refined saltpetre and 608 maunds of salt; in 1911-12 there were two refineries producing 7,329 and 806 maunds of saltpetre and salt. **Saltpetre and Salt.**

334. The three paper mills in the Presidency produced paper valued at Rs. 64,16,185 in 1912 against Rs. 65,55,170 in 1911. **Paper.**

335. The closing of two large silk factories in Birbhum and Murshidabad left only one at work in the Presidency. But the small workers in Bankura and Hooghly did fairly well. **Silk.**

336. There was only one regular sugar factory at work in the 24-Parganas. The industry is declining everywhere owing to the competition of foreign sugar, imports of which increased during the year. **Sugar.**

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

[Board of Revenue's Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1912-13.]

337. Jute, cotton, paper and oil mills had a successful year and minor industries, such as tanneries, bone-mills, and umbrella and trunk factories also did well. Mosquito netting and strong padlocks from Baraset had a ready market in Calcutta, and *chikan* embroidery was largely made for export and local use. In Nadia the Mohini Cotton Mill prospered; hand-woven cloth sold well, but the fine cloth industry of Santipur further declined. In Murshidabad several European silk factories were closed, and the industry generally is failing before Japanese state-aided competition. In Jessore the sugar industry was never less prosperous, but weavers did well, and the comb and button factory in Jessore town was again successful. The makers of *gur*, cocoanut oil, and reed mats at Khulna had a good year, but the export of dried fish declined owing to the supply of fish in the rivers failing. **Presidency.**

338. The Burdwan coal industry revived and new mines were opened. Messrs. Burn's potteries, the Bengal Paper Mills, the Bengal Iron and Steel Works and the Bansrah Tanning Extract Company made good progress. Trade in *tasar* stuffs was brisk, and the Kanchannagar cutlery industry flourished. In Birbhum, the silk factory at Ganutia, once the centre of a large spinning industry, was closed; lac manufacture at Illambazar almost ceased; cotton weaving declined, and the sugar industry again did badly. In Bankura, on the contrary, manufactures prospered; locally made blankets sold well, and the weaving school met with success and was made permanent. In Hooghly brasswork and weaving of silk and cotton were carried on successfully. The oil and flour mills and foundries of Howrah had a successful year, and jute mills worked six days in the week. **Burdwan.**

339. Jute presses were established in the interior, especially by Marwaris, where large numbers of labourers were profitably employed. In Malda the mango trade is steadily developing; a start was made in preserving the fruit by scientific methods and exporting it. **Rajshahi.**

340. The Weaving Industry continues, and fine textures—Dacca cloth—are made in a few places, but the industry does not flourish. There are two iron factories, one at Narayanganj and another—the Sarma Iron Works—at Dacca. The latter is reported to be in a flourishing condition. The manufacture of steel trunks is carried on in Bakarganj district and, though a small industry, it shows signs of improvement. Other industries are the conch shell industry, still very flourishing and the manufacture of coarse soap, *gur*, molasses, combs, bracelets, buttons made from buffalo-horns, tow-ropes and brass utensils. The swadeshi industries in ink, nibs and stockings have entirely disappeared. **Dacca.**

341. The ice factory at Chittagong was re-opened, and the ginning mill of Babu Nil Krishna Ray and the tinning works of Messrs. Zamal Brothers worked as usual. A saw-mill was started in Koyapukia Garden, but was still in the experimental stage. Mr. D. Datta started a dairy farm at Nasirabad on a small scale, but did not do well. The Shalimar Works of Messrs. Turner, Morrison and Company are being successfully run as an iron workshop. At Cox's Bazar a weaving school for Mugh women, who make *lungis* for sale in Burma, was opened at Government expense. **Chittagong.**

Working of the Indian Factories Act, XII of 1911.

[Annual Report on the working of the above Act in Bengal for the year 1912. Statistics of British India, Part I.—Industries.]

Number of factories and system of work.

342. There were 322 factories at the close of the year against 320 in the previous year. Fourteen new factories were brought under the operation of the Act, viz., 2 in Calcutta, 5 in the 24-Parganas, 2 in Howrah, 2 in Dacca, 1 in Pabna and 2 in Tippera; while 2 factories in Calcutta, 1 in Howrah, 3 in Mymensingh, 5 in Faridpur and 1 in Bakarganj, or 12 in all were exempted from its provisions. The daily average number of operatives employed was 320,087. After 1st July 1912 when the new Factories Act (XII of 1911) came into force, many jute mills adopted the full working day of 13½ hours by introducing a system of shifts approved by the Chief Inspector of Factories. In 158 factories work was carried on by means of shifts, and in 131 with stoppages after intervals of six hours; 19 factories had been exempted under paragraph C, Schedule I of the Act and other arrangements were in force in the remaining 14 factories.

Inspection.

343. Ninety-eight factories were inspected once, 80 factories twice, 56 factories three times, and 62 factories more than three times. Only 26 factories were not inspected during the year. The largest number of inspections was made in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Howrah, Dacca and in Calcutta. The Factories Department continued to have the use of the steam-launch *Esme* for visiting the factories along the banks of the river.

Sanitary arrangements.

344. The sanitary arrangements of the factories were generally satisfactory. During the year, new septic tanks were erected at two jute mills, and septic tank latrines were under construction in four others. The advantages of this system of sewage disposal have been conclusively proved and there are extremely few cases where such latrines have proved unsatisfactory.

Water-supply.

345. The water-supply in factories was on the whole adequate. Most of the large mills have their own filters installed for the supply of pure drinking water to the workers. The shortage of filtered water in the smaller factories from the Howrah water-works will shortly be remedied by the enlargement of the water-works plant.

General health of the operatives.

346. The general health of the operatives was excellent and no serious epidemics occurred during the year under review.

Wages and general condition of the operatives.

347. There was no noticeable change in the rates of pay for skilled labour during the year.

Employment of women and children.

348. The rules under the new Factories Act for the employment of women and children were strictly enforced. The various Certifying Surgeons of Factories in the Presidency certified 24,577 children under section 7 of the New Act. Captain J. C. Gillmon, the whole-time Certifying Surgeon of Factories, alone certified 12,227 of these.

Fencing and Machinery.

349. Machinery in mills and factories is reported to have been well guarded. Few accidents occurred which might have been prevented by more elaborate fencing. There were again no accidents at the improved jute softener feed-tables, and very few at the calenders, since guard-rollers were adopted. Most of the accidents which occurred were due to workers attempting to steal oil from the machines.

Accidents.

350. Accidents numbered 1,113 as compared with 983 in the previous year; of these, 54 were fatal, 512 serious, and 547 minor. The majority of the fatal accidents occurred under circumstances against which it is difficult to guard.

Prosecutions.

351. There were twelve prosecutions under the New Act and six convictions. Warnings were issued in five cases where prosecutions were thought unnecessary, because honest attempts were being made to conform to the regulations.

Fires.

352. There was only one serious fire which destroyed the upper stories of one of the Dunbar Cotton Mills.

Strikes.

353. Reductions in the number of hands in mills where an 11-hour-working day had been introduced under the New Act, resulted in several

strikes. The strikers were anxious for the reintroduction of the old shift system and the reinstatement of their fellows who had been dismissed. Most of these strikes ended after a week or ten days.

Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1912-13—Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency—Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign countries—Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India—Review of the trade of India—Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial.]

I.—FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1912-13.]

Foreign trade.

354. The total trade (Foreign and Coasting) of the Presidency of Bengal as now constituted amounts to Rs. 202 crores, an increase of Rs. 25 crores on the figures for 1911-12. This figure surpasses that of all previous years. The total foreign trade amounted to Rs. 172 crores, imports showing a growth of nearly Rs. 8·8 crores and exports of Rs. 9 crores. The extent to which the foreign trade of the Presidency is centred in the chief port, Calcutta, will be apparent from the following figures (*in thousands of rupees*) :—

Merchandise.

	Presidency.	Calcutta.	Chittagong.
Merchandise—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	62,18,84	61,34,35	84,49
Exports	1,00,15,97	94,60,83	5,55,14

The trade of the port of Chittagong is made up chiefly of exports of tea and raw jute.

Treasure.

355. Imports of treasure were valued at Rs. 367 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 843 lakhs in 1911-12. Of this, Rs. 240 lakhs were of gold, most of which came from Australia, Straits Settlements, and China. On the other hand exports rose from Rs. 10·10 lakhs to Rs. 14·39 lakhs, of which Rs. 12·97 lakhs were of silver. State transactions in treasure during the year amounted to Rs. 389 lakhs, of which Rs. 381 lakhs and 8 lakhs represent the imports of silver and exports of gold respectively. With the exception of treasure valued at Rs. 2.38,159 imported into Chittagong, all the treasure imported into and exported from Bengal was received at or sent from Calcutta.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles imported into Calcutta.

356. The following table shows the comparative importance of articles imported into Calcutta, excluding Government stores (*in thousands of rupees*) :—

	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton goods ...	20,53,87	22,74,01	29,22,91
Metals	5,63,60	6,03,98	6,93,20
Sugar	5,91,95	5,20,57	5,73,15
Machinery and millwork	1,90,02	1,51,93	2,08,15
Railway plant and rolling stock ...	1,16,54	1,32,72	1,94,30
Mineral oils ...	1,27,93	1,75,52	1,64,67
Hardware and cutlery	1,10,08	1,26,19	1,35,26
Apparel	66,85	80,07	76,58
Drugs, medicines, chemicals and opium ...	70,32	79,76	76,13
Woollen goods ...	75,45	88,61	75,49
Spices	71,50	66,64	67.51
Liquors	59,12	62,45	66.27
Salt	53,38	64,81	62,09
Tobacco	21,69	23,45	26,18

Cotton goods.

357. The imports of cotton goods during 1912-13 showed a substantial increase both in quantity and value, the total value being 29 per cent. more than in the previous year and representing over 47·6 per cent. of the value of total imports. Arrivals of twist and yarn showed an excess of 29 per cent. over those of 1911-12. Larger consignments were received from the United Kingdom and all the continental countries. The trade in piece-goods was marked by a substantial improvement of Rs. 6 crores. Grey goods and white goods increased in quantity by 27 and 21 per cent. respectively over the figures for 1911-12. Coloured goods also advanced by 27 per cent., and other cotton fabrics showed an advance of Rs. 21 lakhs. The United Kingdom contributed about 94 per cent. of the value of the total imports of cotton goods. On the whole the year was very satisfactory both for the Lancashire industry and for the Indian dealers.

Metals.

358. The volume of metals imported increased by 10·4 per cent., the aggregate value of Rs. 6·9 crores being higher than in any previous year. The year was one of great activity in all branches of the iron and steel industries and there were increases under nearly all heads. Iron and steel, galvanized sheets and plates rose by no less than 31 per cent. Of the wrought iron and steel imported, the United Kingdom sent 77 per cent. and Germany 11 per cent. Imports of unwrought copper showed a large decline of 45 per cent. owing to the higher prices ruling during the year. Japan supplied 81 per cent. of the total. Imports of wrought copper fell by 22 per cent. in quantity. Imports of pig iron again declined by 12 per cent., probably owing to the increasing output from the Barakar Iron Works and the Tata Iron and Steel Works. Imports of tin declined by 11 per cent. in volume and 3 per cent. in value. Speculation in tin caused large fluctuations in price.

Sugar.

359. Imports of sugar increased by 12 per cent. in quantity and 10 per cent. in value, or by Rs. 52·48 lakhs. The stocks were low at the beginning of the year, owing to the heavy re-exports to Europe in 1911-12 in consequence of a deficiency in the Continental beet crop.

The quantity of refined sugar imported rose by 23 per cent. and was the highest recorded. No less than 90 per cent. of the total imports came from Java. The popularity of Mauritius sugar is increasing owing to its improved quality and the imports rose from 4,150 to 15,100 tons. Imports of unrefined sugar showed an advance of Rs. 3 lakhs and those of molasses a decline of over Rs. 7 lakhs: practically the whole of the former and 94 per cent. of the latter came from Java. Owing to the satisfactory beet crops, imports of Austrian beet sugar rose from 1,062 tons to 9,913 tons.

Mineral oils.

360. Imports of kerosene oil fell by 16 per cent. from $31\frac{3}{4}$ to $26\frac{3}{5}$ million gallons, the decrease in value being 21·8 per cent. Imports from the United States showed a contraction of 45 per cent., but those from Borneo advanced by 10 per cent. Owing to the prosperous condition of the jute trade imports of lubricating and batching oils have risen by 30 per cent. The local prices of kerosene oil were higher than in the previous year. Of the imports, 14 per cent. consisted of *case oil* and the balance of *bulk oil*. The quantity of Burma oil imported rose by 7 per cent.

Machinary and mill-work.

361. Imports of machinery increased by 37 per cent. to Rs. 2·08 crores. The increase was mainly due to larger imports of jute mill machinery, which rose from Rs. 33·59 lakhs to Rs. 86·36 lakhs. The United Kingdom accounted for Rs. 1·97 crores of the machinery, that is, 94 per cent. of the total imports.

Railway plant and rolling stock.

362. Imports of railway plant and rolling stock (on private and Government account) increased from Rs. 215 to Rs. 302 lakhs. Of this, Rs. 108 lakhs were imported on Government account. The value of carriages and trucks rose by 92 per cent. to Rs. 1·54 crores, and that of locomotives from Rs. 19·26 lakhs to Rs. 33·3 lakhs.

Hardware and cutlery.

363. There was an increase in imports of hardware and cutlery of 7 per cent. in value to Rs. 135 lakhs. This head includes many miscellaneous items, one of the largest of which is lamp-ware, of which about Rs. 19 lakhs were imported. The United Kingdom sent 63 per cent. and Germany 16 per cent. of the imports.

364. Imports of woollen goods decreased by 15 per cent. to Rs. 75·5 lakhs, mainly due to smaller imports of piece-goods and shawls. About half of the imports consisted of piece-goods (Rs. 38 lakhs), of which the United Kingdom supplied 84 per cent. The heaviest decrease, namely, from Rs. 30·6 lakhs to Rs. 23·9 lakhs, occurred in the case of shawls, of which 73 per cent. came from Germany and 22 per cent. from the United Kingdom. **Woollen goods.**

365. An increase of 21 per cent. in the imports of apparel in 1910-11 was followed by a further increase of 20 per cent. in 1911-12. In 1912-13, imports fell by 4 per cent. to Rs. 76·58 lakhs. The largest contributor was the United Kingdom, which supplied Rs. 53·74 lakhs of the total, while Germany, Austria-Hungary and Japan contributed about Rs. 7, Rs. 10·3 and Rs. 2 lakhs, respectively. Imports from Austria-Hungary showed an increase of 6 per cent., while those from Germany and Japan fell by 36 per cent. and 55 per cent. respectively. Of boots and shoes the United Kingdom supplied Rs. 21·62 lakhs of the total imports of Rs. 22·56 lakhs. The quantity rose from 580,000 to 923,000 pairs. **Apparel.**

366. The total importations of salt during the year (namely 486,600 tons) were slightly less than in 1911-12, but compared favourably with those of other years of the last quinquennium. The conditions throughout the year were more or less normal. The most noticeable feature was the decrease in the imports from the United Kingdom attributable to the coal strike in England and to the decrease in the imports from the Red Sea ports due to the Turko-Italian war. Imports from Aden increased as a result of the completion of the work recently undertaken for the production of salt in that place. **Salt.**

367. Imports of spices were valued at Rs. 67·51 lakhs, and consisted of betel-nuts (Rs. 58 lakhs), cloves (Rs. 3 lakhs), pepper (Rs. 3·27 lakhs) and other less important spices. The trade in betel-nuts, which come mainly from the Straits, and in pepper, is largely dependent on the Indian crop : Bengal betel-nut crops in the past two years have been abundant. The foreign imports were consequently much smaller than in 1910-11 and the exports to coastal ports expanded. Practically the whole of the foreign pepper (nearly 1·31 million lbs.) came from the Straits. **Spices.**

368. Imports of beer from the United Kingdom rose by 27 per cent. and from Germany by 14 per cent. Imports of brandy increased by 8 per cent. and those of whisky fell by 6 per cent. The quantity of wines imported (102,600 gallons) showed a slight decline. **Liquors.**

369. Imports of chemicals, etc., showed a decline, the value falling by 5 per cent. to Rs. 75·97 lakhs. The United Kingdom supplied about 71 per cent. of the total value. Patent medicines fell from Rs. 8·88 to Rs. 8·42 lakhs, due it is said, to an increase in the local manufacture of such preparations. Imports of quinine fell from 87,538 lbs. to 70,379 lbs.; the imports on Government account were 187,083 lbs., of which 97 per cent. came from the United Kingdom. The value of chemicals fell by 8 per cent. to Rs. 38·26 lakhs, mainly attributable to smaller receipts of sodium carbonate. Imports of sulphur for manuring purposes rose slightly. **Chemicals, drugs and medicines.**

370. The quantity of unmanufactured tobacco leaf which had fallen from 163,503 lbs. to 43,225 lbs. in 1911-12 rose to 165,783 lbs., of which 29,561 lbs. consisted of re-imported Indian tobacco, and the import of cigarettes rose from 128 millions to 143 millions. The rise in value of cigarettes was from Rs. 15·6 to Rs. 17·58 lakhs. Imports of better class cigarettes fell slightly, while those of cheaper kinds rose. Of the former 53 per cent. came from the United Kingdom and 47 per cent. from Egypt, while 97 per cent. of the latter came from the United Kingdom. Imports of cigars showed a slight decrease ; about half of the amount consisted of Dutch cigars. **Tobacco.**

371. The total foreign import trade (merchandise) of the Chittagong port amounted to Rs. 84·49 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 64·56 and Rs. 54·58 lakhs, respectively, in 1911-12 and 1910-11. The chief imports were metals (Rs. 40·05 lakhs), salt (Rs. 7·78 lakhs), railway materials (Rs. 4·02 lakhs), tea chests (Rs. 5·64 lakhs) and cotton goods (Rs. 12·12 lakhs). The largest increases were in metals, cotton goods and salt, while railway plant and rolling-stock showed a great decline. **Eastern Bengal Ports.**

Import trade of Calcutta with other countries.

372. The following statement shows how the import trade (merchandise) of Calcutta with foreign countries was distributed :—

	1911-12.	1912-13.	1911-12.	1912-13.
	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	35,96·45	44,15·32	69·19	71·97
Other British Possessions	1,89·38	2,11·57	3·64	3·45
Java	5,04·90	5,12·08	9·71	8·35
Germany	2,52·04	2,72·00	4·85	4·43
United States ...	1,65·27	1,59·06	3·18	2·59
Japan	1,02·88	99·61	1·98	1·62
Belgium	66·44	99·20	1·28	1·62
Austria-Hungary ...	70·59	89·38	1·36	1·45
Total Imports ...	51,97·77	61,34·35	100	100

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles exported from Calcutta.

373. The following table gives the values of the more important products in the export trade of Calcutta, and shows their comparative importance (*in thousands of rupees*) :—

	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Jute, raw ...	13,61,43	19,99,32	24,47,00
Jute, manufactured ...	16,92,32	15,92,72	22,76,63
Grain and pulses ...	6,93,83	10,50,43	10,83,82
Tea	8,45,02	8,85,29	8,86,46
Hides and skins ...	6,85,15	7,26,81	8,30,64
Opium	10,61,40	6,71,48	5,69,57
Oil-seeds ...	6,07,92	7,35,32	4,15,50
Lac	2,10,90	1,96,19	2,05,91
Cotton, raw ...	94,84	81,55	1,16,12
Coal and coke ...	76,92	76,90	88,31
Hemp, raw ...	28,33	36,72	44,42
Indigo	24,96	30,57	17,85
Silk, raw... ...	27,56	18,14	11,82

Jute, raw and manufactured.

374. During the year a marked improvement in the jute trade set in and the value of the jute shipped exceeded even that in 1906-07, when the price of raw jute attained an abnormally high level. Jute now represents 50 per cent. of the foreign export trade and 30 per cent. of the total foreign trade of Calcutta. Shipments of raw jute increased in volume by 10 per cent. and in value by 22 per cent. ; there was also an expansion in the shipments of gunny-bags and gunny cloth by 7 and 17 per cent. respectively. From the commencement of 1912, an export duty of 2 annas per bale of 400 lbs. on raw jute and 12 annas per ton on manufactured jute exported from Calcutta to both Indian and foreign ports was imposed for the benefit of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, and the duty so realised in 1912-13 amounted to nearly Rs. 21 lakhs. The United Kingdom took 37 per cent of the total exports of raw jute, the shipments being nearly 1 per cent. in deficit of those of 1911-12. Dundee took 7 per cent. more than in the previous year. Germany increased her demand by 10 per cent., and the United States increased hers by 24 per cent.

The improvement in the jute trade which set in during the early months of 1912 continued throughout 1912-13, and that year witnessed a remarkable recovery after a period of acute depression in the industry. The result was mainly due to the steady curtailment of production by reduction of the working time in the two previous years. The general expansion in the outturn of gunny-bags and gunny cloth was reflected in the export figures. The value of gunny-bags exported increased from Rs. 7,51·56 lakhs to Rs. 9,60·61 lakhs, and that of gunny cloth rose from Rs. 8,33·92 lakhs to Rs. 13,05·18 lakhs. Of the total value of gunny-bags and gunny cloth exported,

the United States took Rs. 8·76 crores, the Argentine Republic Rs. 3·11 crores, Australia Rs. 2·18 crores and the United Kingdom Rs. 1·44 crores.

Grain and pulse.

375. The rains in India, though late and slightly below normal, were on the whole beneficial except in parts of the United Provinces and Bengal where their early cessation caused some damage to the rice crop. In the Far East there was some shortage of rice, and in Western Europe excessive rain affected the wheat crop to a certain extent. These conditions are reflected in the figures of the export trade. Exports of grain and pulse fell to 958,366 tons. This figure, though 9 per cent. below that of 1911-12, is nevertheless the highest recorded except in that year. Owing to higher prices for rice the aggregate value of these exports rose by 3 per cent. and reached Rs. 10,83·82 lakhs. In India the rice crop in 1911-12 was above the average for five years, but the estimated yield in 1912-13 was 13·5 per cent. less than in the previous year. In Bengal the defect was 2·6 per cent. Exports by sea rose by 2 per cent. in volume and by 10 per cent. in value. Shipments to Ceylon increased by 5 per cent. and those to other countries except Arabia were above the five years' average.

Shipments of wheat from Calcutta fell by 17 per cent. to 2,902,703 cwts. Of the total quantity, the United Kingdom took 80 per cent., France 5 per cent. and Belgium 7 per cent. Exports of barley rose by 93 per cent. in quantity and 117 per cent. in value, while maize fell from 1,310,638 cwts. to 61,779 cwts. and pulses from 5,015,288 cwts. to 3,334,016 cwts.

Tea.

376. There was a further increase (6 per cent. in quantity and ·1 per cent. in value) in the shipments of tea from Calcutta, which were again the highest on record. Exports to the United Kingdom expanded slightly in quantity, but contracted by 5·3 per cent. in value. There was a considerable increase in the shipments to outside markets, except to the United States and Australasia, which took, respectively, 892,319 lbs. and 617,032 lbs. less; Russia, who is India's best customer after the United Kingdom, received 6,709,381 lbs. and China 4,089,669 lbs. more than in the previous year. The exports to other countries also showed a satisfactory rise.

Oil-seeds.

377. The total value of the exports of oil-seeds fell by 43 per cent. and was the lowest since 1909-10. The shipments of linseed decreased from 279,000 tons to 165,000 tons. They constituted 90 per cent. of the total exports of oil-seeds from Calcutta, and were mainly responsible for the decrease in the total figures, while most of the other varieties also showed a decline. All countries except Australia took less than in the previous year. In the case of the United Kingdom the decrease was 30 per cent. and in that of the United States 94 per cent. There was a large falling off of 93 per cent. in the case of rape-seed. A considerable quantity is consumed by the numerous oil-mills in and around Calcutta, and the exports merely represent the surplus not required for local consumption: of the quantity sent out nearly three-quarters went to France.

Hides and skins.

378. The number and value of hides shipped was substantially larger than it has been in any year since the famine year of 1906-07: the average value per hide also continued to rise. With the exception of the United Kingdom and Austria-Hungary all countries took larger quantities. Germany continued to be the best customer with 36 per cent. of the shipments followed by Austria-Hungary, Italy and the United States. Of the skins exported, 98 per cent. were goat skins. As usual the bulk of these went to the United States.

Opium.

379. The past year was an anxious period in the history of the opium trade. With the advent of the revolution in China the cultivation of the poppy plant recommenced, but subsequently decrees were issued prohibiting not only the production, but also the consumption of opium. In consequence the number of chests exported from Calcutta fell by 18 per cent. and the value by 15 per cent. The fall in the exports to China amounted to 44 per cent.

Lac.

380. A contraction in the quantities of lac exported to the United Kingdom, Germany, Holland and Austria-Hungary was almost counterbalanced by larger shipments to France and the United States. The value of total exports, increased by 5 per cent.

Cotton, raw.

381. Although exports of raw cotton in 1912-13 rose by 36 per cent. in quantity and 42 per cent. in value, the figures were below those for 1909-10.

Shipments to the continent declined owing to the unfavourable condition of the cotton trade in Italy, Austria and Germany. Japan absorbed 51 per cent. of the total.

Coal and coke. 382. Shipments of coal and coke for foreign ports rose by 1 per cent. to 879,000 tons. The output in Bengal increased during the year, but a general shortage of wagons helped to curtail the supply of coal in Calcutta for shipments. The trade was also embarrassed by scarcity of tonnage, and record prices were paid for coal freights. All countries, except the Straits Settlements and Aden, took larger quantities. The coal strike in the United Kingdom, however, resulted in an increase due to an unusual shipment to Egypt to meet a possible deficiency there. The exports of bunker coal rose by 21,000 tons to 956,000 tons.

Indigo. 383. In 1911-12 there had been a temporary recovery in the quantity of indigo exported after several years of almost continuous decline. But the year under review was marked by a setback, the total shipments from British India being 18 per cent. in defect, while those from Calcutta showed a decrease of 36 per cent. in quantity and 42 per cent. in value. The United Kingdom took only a quarter of her preceding year's receipts, and most of the other countries which draw on India for their indigo, also took less.

Silk, raw. 384. Exports of raw silk had been declining for several years, and 1912-13 saw a further fall of 20 per cent. in quantity and 35 per cent. in value. This decline may be ascribed to the fact that more *Bengal silk* is now consumed locally. All countries except Italy and Germany took less. Of 608,307 lbs. exported, France took 467,159 lbs. The crop of 1912 was estimated to yield an increase of 5 per cent.

Eastern Bengal ports. 385. The value of the merchandise exported from ports in Eastern Bengal exceeded Rs. 555 lakhs, and consisted almost entirely of tea (Rs. 296 lakhs) and raw jute (Rs. 248 lakhs). The total exports were valued at Rs. 450 lakhs and Rs. 534 lakhs in 1910-11 and 1911-12, respectively.

Export trade with other countries. 386. The following statement shows the relative shares of the principal countries in the export trade (merchandise) of Calcutta :—

	1911-12. Rs. Lakhs.	1912-13. Rs. Lakhs.	1911-12. Per cent.	1912-13. Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	24,65·59	23,71·17	28·71	25·06
Other British Possessions	15,25·08	15,87·51	17·76	16·78
United States	13,09·71	15,51·14	15·25	16·4
Germany	9,69·89	10,68·94	11·3	11·3
South America	2,39·47	4,44·99	2·79	4·7
France	3,31·21	3,72·30	3·86	3·94
Austria-Hungary ...	2,97·06	3,04·27	3·46	3·22
Italy	1,74·98	2,31·65	2·04	2·45
China Treaty Ports ...	1,77·85	1,84·57	2·07	1·95
Belgium	1,91·41	1,55·95	2·23	1·65
Total Exports ...	85,87·17	94,60·83	100	100

II.—FRONTIER TRADE.

[Report on the Frontier Trade of Bengal for 1912-13.]

Frontier Trade. 387. The total value of the trade with the adjacent States of Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan in the year ending 31st March 1913 amounted to Rs. 93·18 lakhs, exclusive of the movements of treasure, the registration of which continued to be defective.

Imports into Bengal. 388. Of the total value of the imports into Bengal (Rs. 46 lakhs), 38 per cent. came from Nepal, 31 per cent. from Sikkim, 29 per cent. from Tibet and the balance of about 2 per cent. from Bhutan. The principal articles of import into Bengal were :—from Nepal, living animals Rs. 11 lakhs, provisions—*ghi* Rs. 2 lakhs, cattle hides Rs. 1·5 lakhs, fruits, vegetables and nuts Rs. 1·4 lakhs ; from Sikkim, animals Rs. 3·64 lakhs, spices Rs. 2·43 lakhs, grain and pulse Rs. 2·30 lakhs, fruits, vegetables and nuts Rs. 1·47 lakhs and *ghi* Rs. 1·21 lakhs ; from Tibet, raw wool, which

constitutes the main staple of import, 38,549 maunds, valued at Rs. 6·97 lakhs ; skins of sheep and small animals Rs. 4·54 lakhs, musk and yak's tails, valued jointly at Rs. 1·41 lakhs ; from Bhutan, living animals, valued at Rs. 30,000.

Exports from Bengal.

389. Of the total exports (Rs. 46 lakhs), 48 per cent. went to Nepal, 29 per cent. to Sikkim, 20 per cent. to Tibet and about 3 per cent. to Bhutan. The exports from Bengal to Nepal consisted mainly of cotton manufactures (Rs. 15 lakhs), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 1·39 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 1 lakh), gunny-bags (Rs. 94,000), oils, chiefly kerosene (Rs. 83,000), and salt (Rs. 56,000) ; to Sikkim, cotton manufactures (Rs. 2·68 lakhs), grain and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 1·74 lakhs), oils, chiefly kerosene (Rs. 1·20 lakhs), provisions (Rs. 1·33 lakhs), tobacco (Rs. 82,000), and sugar (Rs. 80,000). In the case of Tibet the chief items were cotton piece-goods (Rs. 4·34 lakhs), and woollen piece-goods (Rs. 80,000). The principal commodities exported to Bhutan were cotton piece-goods valued at Rs. 54,000, and spices Rs. 30,000.

III.—COASTING TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1912-13.]

Coasting trade.

390. The total value of the trade, including Government stores and treasure, of the Presidency of Bengal as now constituted, amounted to over 30·1 crores, an increase of 7·1 crores. In Calcutta, to which over 90·4 per cent. of the trade belongs, there was an increase in imports of private merchandise from Rs. 7·61 crores, to 8·55 crores, and also an improvement in exports from Rs. 9·37 to 11·56 crores : more than half the trade was with Burma. The year under review showed a recovery in the imports of rice and mineral oils from Burma. Receipts of earthnuts from Madras slightly declined from Rs. 59·6 lakhs to 58·3 lakhs. Raw cotton increased from Rs. 63 lakhs to Rs. 84 lakhs (Burma sending Rs. 43 lakhs). Most of the principal articles exported showed a recovery in value, and the noticeable increases were under coal, cotton twist, gram, rice, paddy and jute manufactures. There was a small increase in exports of tea.

IV.—TRADE BY RAILWAY AND RIVER.

[Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in 1912-13.]

Rail and River borne trade.

391. The main divisions of this trade and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table :—

Year.		Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to other provinces.	Imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, from other provinces.	Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal.	Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal.
1911-12 ...	Mds.	50,888,548	177,031,450	33,294,670	137,227,149
	Rs.	40,85,54,668	59,00,36,365	28,82,70,727	44,80,68,842
1912-13 ...	Mds.	66,166,433	202,441,708	34,942,777	145,741,212
	Rs.	43,77,15,623	55,90,81,957	34,36,51,182	55,30,61,721

The imports into Bengal, including Calcutta were valued at Rs. 55 crores, of which 37 per cent. came from Bihar and Orissa, 26 per cent. from the United Provinces, 22 per cent. from Assam, 3 per cent. from the Central Provinces and Berar, 2 per cent. from the Punjab, and the balance, of 10 per cent., from other provinces. Of the total exports (Rs. 43 crores), 38 per cent. went to Bihar and Orissa, 30 per cent. to the United Provinces, 13 per cent. to Assam, 9 per cent. to the Punjab, 3 per cent. to the Central Provinces and Berar, and the remainder, 7 per cent., to other provinces.

Imports into Bengal.

392. The principal articles of import into Bengal, including Calcutta, were from Bihar and Orissa, coal and coke (Rs. 4 crores), railway materials (Rs. 3

crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 2·8 crores), oilseeds (Rs. 2·2 crores), jute (Rs. 2 crores), hides and skins (Rs. 1·1 crores), and lac (Rs. 86 lakhs); from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, grain and pulse (Rs. 5 crores), oilseeds (Rs. 3 crores), hides and skins (Rs. 1·6 crores), opium (Rs. 83 lakhs), *ghi* (Rs. 71 lakhs) and lac (Rs. 54 lakhs); from Assam, tea (Rs. 9·2 crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 1·1 crores) and jute (Rs. 61 lakhs); from the Central Provinces and Berar, cotton, raw (Rs. 45 lakhs), and wheat (Rs. 13 lakhs), and *ghi* (Rs. 5 lakhs); and from the Punjab, hides and skins (Rs. 63 lakhs) and rape and mustard seeds (Rs. 36 lakhs).

Exports from Bengal.

393. The exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to Bihar and Orissa comprised mainly cotton manufactures (Rs. 7·5 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 2·2 crores), sugar (Rs. 92 lakhs), oils, chiefly kerosene (Rs. 91 lakhs), salt (Rs. 70 lakhs), gunny-bags (Rs. 45 lakhs) and spices (Rs. 40 lakhs); to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, cotton manufactures (Rs. 5·2 crores), sugar (Rs. 1·6 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 1·8 crores), gunny-bags and cloth (Rs. 1·1 crores) kerosene oil (Rs. 63 lakhs) and railway plant and rolling stock (Rs. 62 lakhs); to Assam, cotton manufactures (Rs. 1·7 crores) and metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 1·2 crores); to the Punjab, cotton manufactures (Rs. 1 crore), gunny-bags and cloth (Rs. 1 crore), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 46 lakhs) and sugar (Rs. 14 lakhs); while exports to the Central Provinces and Berar consisted principally of gunny-bags and cloth (Rs. 32 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 22 lakhs), cotton piece-goods—foreign (Rs. 16 lakhs) and kerosene oil (Rs. 14 lakhs).

PUBLIC WORKS.

Establishment.

Establishment.

394. On the reconstitution of Bengal three out of the four Irrigation Circles in Bengal were transferred to the newly-formed Province of Bihar and Orissa, the post of Irrigation Chief Engineer, Bengal, was abolished, and a fifth circle of superintendence was sanctioned provisionally. The Superintending Engineer in charge of this circle was appointed *ex-officio* Deputy Secretary to Government in irrigation matters, and the rest of the subjects with which the Irrigation Chief Engineer used formerly to deal were made over to the Public Works Department Chief Engineer. A year's working showed that it was impossible for the Chief Engineer in the Roads and Buildings Branch to carry on the extra work thus made over to him in addition to the work in his own branch and to devote any time or attention to the development of the various waterways and drainage schemes which are under the consideration of Government. The pressing necessity for a second Chief Engineer for the Irrigation Branch was accordingly represented to the Government of India, who have, since the close of the year under report, sanctioned the appointment of a second Chief Engineer for Bengal for a period of five years in the first instance.

Jessore Drainage Division.

395. With a view to improving the drainage conditions of malaria-affected areas, a new division, called the Jessore Drainage Division, was formed on the 17th September, and a staff consisting of an Executive Engineer, two Overseers, three Surveyors and three Sub-Overseers was appointed to it. The Division was placed under the control of the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, and clear and complete instructions, based on the notes of Government experts on irrigation, were issued to the Executive Engineer, indicating the lines on which the investigations should be carried out. The work of assimilating the administrative rules and orders in force in the two portions of the newly constituted Presidency of Bengal, *i.e.*, in the districts which came over from the dissolved Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam and those that belonged to the former Province of Bengal, was also undertaken during the year under report and considerable progress was made.

Buildings.

396. The total outlay on works during the year was Rs. 1,15,89,569, viz., Rs. 35,46,305 by local authorities and Rs. 80,43,264 by the Public Works Department. The latter sum consisted of Rs. 15,49,899 spent on Imperial works, Rs. 63,17,963 on Provincial works and Rs. 1,75,402 on local and contribution works. **Expenditure.**

IMPERIAL WORKS.

397. The total expenditure upon the extension of the salt *golas* at Salkea up to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 1,64,000 ; the workshop and the menials' quarters were nearly completed, *golas* Nos. G, L and M were well in hand, and a stacking shed and an additional turn-table were completed at a total cost of Rs. 23,700. The new salt *golas* at Chittagong were still under construction, only the earthwork for raising the site and for railway approach sidings having been completed. The damp-proof course laid over the floors of the *golas* having proved unsatisfactory it was decided to lay a concrete floor upon it. This work and the construction of quarters for subordinates and menials were in hand at the close of the year. **Civil Works, Salt.**

398. The remodelling of the clerks' and menials' latrine and urinals at the General Post Office. Calcutta, was in progress. The combined post and telegraph office building, with quarters for the post-master, at Alipore, was practically completed. Combined post and telegraph offices were constructed at Jhenidah, North Raozan and Alipur Duars. The construction of a combined post and telegraph office at Bagerhat, the extension of the combined office at Burdwan, and additions and alterations to the post office and post-master's quarters at Barisal were nearly completed. Materials were collected for the construction of combined offices at Kamarkhali, Morelganj, and Balurghat. The extension of the central telegraph office at Calcutta was in progress, and its masonry work was nearly completed. At the telegraph store-yard, Alipore, another double-storied building was erected at a cost of Rs. 13,726, sanitary improvements were carried out in the latrines and urinal, and north lights were constructed on the roofs of the instrument and battery godown and instrument shop. Flag-signallers' quarters were constructed at Saugor Island, and an observation room at the same place was under construction. Quarters were built for clerks and signallers at Rangpur, and for signallers at Nagrakatta. Additions and alterations were commenced on a godown attached to the telegraph office at Mymensingh to convert it into quarters for telegraphists. **Post and Telegraph offices.**

399. Six fans and 13 lights were added to the electric installation in the office of the Director-General of Post and Telegraphs in the new Imperial Secretariat buildings in Council House Street, Calcutta. **Secretariat buildings.**

400. The alterations in the several vaults in the Paper Currency building were completed at a cost of Rs. 13,121, and 13 additional lights and 8 fans were installed in the Paper Currency office, as well as a ventilating fan in the note-sorting department. **Currency Office.**

401. Certain additions and alterations were made in the Surveyor-General's office, 84 lights being installed in the photo-litho office, and an upper storey added to the single-storied godown attached to this building. The installation of 17 fans and 2 lights in the office of the Surveyor-General was nearly completed. **Surveyor-General's Office.**

402. Certain additional works in connection with the reconstruction of the Press buildings at No. 166, Dhurrumtollah Street, Calcutta, were taken in hand at the end of the year. A ventilating fan was installed in the Central Press. **Printing.**

403. The Stamp and Stationery building No. 1 in Church Lane, Calcutta, for the storage of stationery and stamps and for the accommodation of the offices was completed. **Stamp and Stationery Office.**

404. Quarters and an office for the Mining Inspector and his staff were under construction at Asansol. **Mines.**

405. The Imperial Library, Calcutta, was re-wired on a fire-proof system. **Imperial Library, Calcutta.**

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

High Court.

406. Twenty-eight electric lights and 23 fans were installed in the Original Side of the High Court, 14 lights in place of gas lamps in the old building, 2 in the extension of the High Court, and 8-light points in the old record-room.

Small Cause Court.

407. Fourteen additional electric lights and 34 fans were provided in the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta.

Revenue and Judicial Courts.

408. The masonry work of the new office for the Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, at Jalpaiguri was practically completed. Additions and alterations were made in the Deputy Commissioner's cutchery at Darjeeling. Additions and alterations to the Treasury Building, Rangpur, were nearly completed. The roof of the Treasury at Malda was renewed, and verandahs were added on the north and east sides of the treasury strong-room. Bricks were collected for the construction of Settlement buildings at Rampur Boalia. The eastern block of the new Collectorate buildings at Midnapore was completed at a cost of Rs. 1,90,933. The work of extending and altering the Barisal Collectorate and the Collector's Court, Krishnagar, including the extension of the Police and Magistrate's Court, was in progress. A portico and staircase were constructed in the Judge's Court, Alipore, another room was added to the Bar Library, and additions and alterations were made to the electric lights and fans in the building. The extension of the Law Court building at Khulna was completed at an expenditure of Rs. 79,171, and certain additions and alterations were carried out in the old building. Additions and alterations were executed to the Judge's Court at Berhampore. The Sessions Court at Jalpaiguri was completed. An additional plot of land was acquired for the Judge's Court at Bankura. Improvements to the record-rooms in the Judge's Court, Midnapore, were in progress and the re-arrangement of the record-racks in the Judge's Court at Dinajpur was begun. The erection of a witness-shed for the Magistrate's Court at Jessore was in progress. An additional Court building was under construction at Narail. The construction of the Treasury and Police office and improvements to the Subdivisional Court-house, Sirajganj, were nearly finished. Materials were collected for the construction of a masonry building for the English office of the Khas Tahsil department at Contai. Treasury guards' quarters were constructed at Narail, and similar quarters were in progress at Ranaghat and Bongaon. A single Munsifi was constructed at Pingna. The extension and improvements to the double Munsifi at Dinajpur were carried out. The work of converting the double Munsifi at Vishnupur into a triple Munsifi was in progress, as well as additions and alterations to the Munsifi at Ulubaria. The corrugated-iron roof over the Munsif's Court at Amta was replaced by a terraced roof. Materials were collected for the construction of combined witness-sheds and store-rooms for the Munsif's Courts at Bolpur and Dubrajpur, and for a witness-shed for the Munsif's Court at Ghatal.

Subdivisional and Munsif's residences.

409. Quarters were constructed for the Subdivisional Officers at Kishorganj and Pirojpur, the Sub-Deputy Magistrate at Arambagh, the second officers at Manikganj and Sirajganj and the Sub-Deputy Collector at Vishnupur. Additions and alterations were made in the Subdivisional Officer's quarters at Vishnupur, the three Deputy Magistrates' quarters at Khulna and the Sub-Deputy Magistrate's quarters at Kurigram. The corrugated-iron roofing of the Subdivisional Officer's quarters at Sirajganj was replaced by terrace roofing. Quarters were under construction for the Subdivisional Officers at Kandi, Katwa and Asansol. Improvements were being carried out in the Subdivisional Officer's quarters at Narail. Quarters were commenced for the Muhammadan Deputy Collector at Jessore. Brickwork was finished up to plinth level on the Sub-Deputy Collector's quarters at Diamond Harbour, and the excavation of the foundations for the out-houses was started. Materials were collected for the Sub-Deputy Collector's quarters at Satkhira, and the second officer's quarters at Pirojpur. Two sets of Munsif's quarters at Jalpaiguri were completed, with the exception of some extra items of work approved late in the year. Additions and alterations were made in the 2nd Munsif's quarters at Bagerhat. A terraced roof was substituted for the

thatched roof of the 1st and 2nd Munsifs' quarters at Satkhira. Quarters for the Munsif at Chuadanga were nearly finished. Two sets of Munsif's quarters were under construction at Basirhat and Diamond Harbour. Additions and alterations were in progress in the Munsif's quarters at Narail, and quarters were started for a Munsif at Fatikcherry.

Circuit-houses.

410. The circuit-house at Howrah was fitted up with 12 electric lights and 3 fans.

Excise.

411. In the Russa distillery additions and alterations were carried out in some of the residential buildings, a storage tank was erected for the supply of unfiltered water for the exclusive use of the boilers, a new boiler was supplied and the pipe connections were re-arranged in order to improve the working of the pumps and to enable them to be worked separately. At Barrackpore a separate *ganja gola* was built, and the existing liquor depôt was remodelled. A liquor house was constructed at Krishnagar, and an Excise office was being built at that place. The construction of staff quarters at the Luksan bonded warehouse was commenced and nearly completed. Improvements in the *ganja gola* at Naugaon were in progress, and the construction of a *ganja* warehouse at Balurghat was commenced.

Residences for the Local Government.

412. The following works in connection with Government House, Darjeeling, were completed or under construction:—

(1) New kitchen wing, except the fourth floor.
(2) Arrangement of the electric installation.
(3) Private Secretary's quarters.
(4) Staircase, etc., to the above.
(5) Aides-de-Camp's quarters.
(6) Barrack for 30 servants on the stable flat (northern block).
(7) Barrack for 36 servants on the stable flat (southern block).
(8) Servants' quarters on "Jessamine Villa" site (10 bandsmen and 18 Government House servants).
(9) Upper block of servants' quarters, "Lowlands Place" (25 servants).
(10) Lower block of servants' quarters, "Lowlands Place" (31 servants).
(11) Electric bells.
(12) Additions and alterations to "Jessamine Villa."
(13) Alterations to "Sunbeam Lodge."
(14) Masonry in the foundation of new servants' quarters near the kitchen wing (42 servants) up to ground level.
(15) Eight-seated water-closet latrine for servants on the stable flat except a small portion of the pipe connection.
(16) Masonry of the clerks' quarters (about one-fourth).
(17) Cook-room for the married bandsmen (nearly completed).
(18) New post-office (nearly finished).
(19) New rickshaw shed (nearly finished).
(20) Telephone exchange (nearly completed).
(21) Alterations in the Military Secretary's office (about half done).
(22) Buildings known as "Rivers Hill" and "Richmond Villa" were acquired for the accommodation of the staff of His Excellency the Governor.

Work in connection with the new Government House, Dacca, was still in progress. It is proposed that the buildings shall form part of the Dacca University. Considerable alterations were made in the temporary Government House and in the construction of temporary out-offices to render the buildings suitable for His Excellency's residence when the head-quarters of Government are located at Dacca. At Government House, Chittagong, the works carried out were the construction of an ornamental railing round the compound with gates, wiring the buildings for electric lights and fans, and laying out the grounds.

Secretariat Offices.

413. Nine electric lights, four fans and four bells were installed in the Hon'ble Members' rooms in Writers' Buildings, Calcutta. Quarters for 40 Secretariat peons were nearly completed at Darjeeling.

Residences for Government Officials.

414. Five residences were set aside at Dacca for Secretaries and heads of departments during the location of Government at that place; the houses

were furnished and provided with electric installation. The house belonging to Mr. Gourju, in the barrack square at Berhampore, was purchased at a cost of Rs. 33,000 for the residence of the Collector of Murshidabad. The work of clearing, raising and dressing the land acquired for officers' quarters at Barisal was completed during the year. The installation of electric lights and fans in 22 residential buildings in the new civil station, Dacca, was taken in hand. The Civil Surgeon's residence at Jalpaiguri was completed, except for a few additional petty items since considered necessary. Materials were collected for the construction of a residence for the District Judge of Khulna. The Roman Catholic Mission house at Jessore was purchased as a residence for the Superintendent of Police, Jessore, at a cost of Rs. 13,000, and a further sum of Rs. 4,450 was expended on additions and alterations. Residences were constructed for the Superintendent of Police at Rangpur, and for the Assistant Superintendents of Police at Mymensingh, Munshiganj and Comilla. The work of converting a house at Rampur Boalia into a residence for the Deputy Superintendent of Police was completed. Additions and alterations were carried out in the residence of the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Sirajgânj. The residence for the Superintendent of Police, Pabna, was almost finished. Residences were being built for the Assistant Superintendents of Police at Patuakhali and Madaripur.

Jails.

415. A total sum of Rs. 3,47,761 was spent up to the 31st March 1913 towards the completion of the new Press buildings attached to the New Central Jail at Alipore. A new building was started for the Forms store in connection with this press, and a sum of Rs. 64,577 was spent on it up to 31st March 1913. The building of an undertrial ward and a civil jail, was also commenced, and a portion of the *Moti jhil* was filled in. Twenty-seven additional electric lights were installed in the European prisoners' cell, and six lights and two fans in the quarters of the Superintendent of the Jail. In the Mymensingh Jail two work-sheds and two godowns were being built and the compound was being extended. The reconstruction of the buildings in the Noakhali Jail was nearly completed. A water-pipe connection in the Barisal Jail was finished. A hospital was constructed in the Krishnagar Jail, and the reconstruction of wards Nos. 5—7 in the Burdwan Jail was in progress. In connection with the enlargement of the Rampur Boalia Jail, the enclosure wall was completed and the Assistant Jailor's and Hospital Assistants' quarters were nearly finished. Good progress was made in the construction of a "B" class prisoners' work-shed and of a new general cookshed in this jail. Additions and alterations were made in the Lalbagh Subsidiary Jail. Family quarters were constructed for the head-warder of the Contai Subsidiary Jail and quarters were also erected for the warders of the Kandi Subsidiary Jail.

Police.

416. Police-station buildings were erected at Baraset and Jagatdal. A new barrack was constructed for constables on duty in the Police Court, Sealdah. Land was acquired for the construction of barracks for the new company of military police at Paikpara at a cost of about Rs. 60,729. The Police buildings at Sibpur were completed, with the exception of the septic tank latrine, at a cost of Rs. 2,02,000. Additions and alterations were made in the Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters in the police hospital at Berhampore. Two plots of land were acquired for the extension of the reserve police lines at Krishnagar. A police hospital at Chinsura, a beat-house at Champdani in the Hooghly district, and a police-station at Rampur Hât were in progress. The reserve police barrack at Midnapore was completed at a cost of Rs. 27,941. Of the buildings required for the military police at Dacca, the armoury and quarter-guard for three companies were completed, and three single men's double-storied barracks were under construction. Two barracks for 4 head-constables and 50 constables were erected in the police lines at Mymensingh. The police buildings at Nandail were finished. An independent outpost, with quarters for subordinates, was constructed at Bhaluka, in the district of Mymensingh. The land acquired for the new reserve police lines at Barisal was raised. Constables' cooksheds and sub-inspectors' quarters were constructed at the Rangamati thana. The works, sanctioned in connection with the Central Police Training College at Sarda, were completed, but several additional works are necessary. The police

buildings at English Bazar and Singra were completed. Land was acquired at "Bloomfield," Darjeeling, for the construction of police buildings. The police-station buildings at Pabna were nearly completed. All the subsidiary buildings of the police lines at Rangpur were finished, except the armoury and the magazine. The construction of police buildings in the reserve police lines at Dinajpur was started. Materials were collected for constructing police-station buildings at Nandigram. A police magazine was erected at Suri and an ammunition magazine at Jessore. Quarters were constructed for the European Inspector of the armed police at Krishnagar, and for two sub-inspectors at Galsi, and improvements were made in the quarters of the European Inspector of the town police at Kharagpur.

Educational.

417. The Physics Laboratory at the Presidency College was completed at a total expenditure of Rs. 5,66,958 up to the end of March 1913, and land was acquired for the extension of the college at a cost of Rs. 3,00,000. Two steam pumps in the college were replaced by two electric pumps; and electric fans were installed in certain rooms left vacant by the transfer of the physical and physiological department to the new physical laboratory. Four electric lights and 33 fans were put up in the class-room of the Government School of Art, Calcutta. Additions and alterations were nearly completed in the chemical and physical laboratories of the Krishnagar College. Furniture was supplied to the chapel of the Government schools at Kurseong, and some additions were made to the school buildings. The work of levelling and enclosing the compound at the Government School, Utterpara, was completed, and certain additions and alterations were also made in the school. The extension of the second storey of the Anglo-Persian department of the Dacca Madrassa was completed. The girls' school with mistresses' quarters at Faridpur was finished, and the enclosure wall was in progress. The physical laboratory, Rajshahi College, was well advanced. A middle English school was constructed at Cox's Bazar. The zilla school at Mymensingh was nearly completed and the site was raised, but the hostels and out-buildings had not been commenced. The new high school buildings at Rangamati were in progress. Two class-rooms were added to the zilla school building at Dinajpur, and a new building to provide additional accommodation for the Malda Zilla School was under construction. Materials were collected for the new provincialised Bayley-Gobinda Lal Technical School at Rangpur. Before taking the buildings on the books of this department, thorough repairs were executed to *guru*-training schools at 22 places. A *guru*-training school was constructed at Mohisrekha, and those at Amta and Jalpaiguri were under construction. Improvements were completed or in progress in the buildings of the *guru*-training schools at Basudebpur, Joynagar and Kulpi, and special repairs to the Menji training school were executed. A hospital was constructed for the *guru*-training school at Baripara, in the district of Khulna. Land was acquired for the construction of a hostel for the students of the Presidency College, Calcutta, at a cost of Rs. 4,30,000. The hostel for Namasudra and Muhammadan boys of the high English school at Jhalakati, that for 25 Muhammadan boys of the Jalpaiguri Zilla School and that at the Darjeeling High School, with Superintendent's quarters, were completed. A dining hall was constructed in the Muhammadan boarding-house attached to the Nawab Bahadur's Institution at Murshidabad. Hostels were being built for the students of the Government school at Barrackpore, for the Muhammadan students of the Jessore and Noakhali Zilla Schools, and for the boys of the Hindu Academy at Daulatpur, in the district of Khulna. The addition of a second storey to the hostel attached to the School of Engineering, Dacca, was in progress. Materials were collected for the construction of hostels for the Muhammadan boys of the Hooghly College and the Pabna Zilla School, and for additional hostel accommodation at the Rajshahi College.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

418. Land was acquired for a School of Tropical Medicine and for a Biological Laboratory at the Medical College, Calcutta, at a cost of Rs. 4,12,000. A portion of the old Medical College building (east block) was dismantled, as it was not required on the completion of the 4th block, and the southern portion of the building was retained for the Materia Medica Museum. The stable and coach-house of the resident medical officers were

converted into cook and tiffin-rooms for the students of the college. The floor and dado of the College Hospital were laid with 1" patent stone. The refrigerating plant at the pathological block of the hospital was put in order. A hot-water installation was erected in the Eden Hospital, and the construction of sculleries for the hospital was begun. A new refrigerating plant was installed at the Presidency General Hospital. At the new nurses' quarters in this hospital the underground wiring was changed, 30 regulators and 45 old type fans were replaced and 15 fan points were re-wired. In the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, a composite building, consisting of a *post-mortem* room, dead-house and macerating room, with servants' quarters and dissecting room, was constructed at a cost of Rs. 52,152, and additions and alterations were made in the large lecture theatre. Nineteen lights were installed in the Lady Elliott Hostel, in the compound of the Campbell Hospital, and six existing light points, six bells and three fan points were re-wired. At the Sambhu Nath Pundit Hospital, Bhowanipur, a new surgical ward was constructed at a cost of Rs. 64,734, and underground drainage was laid. Additions and alterations, including warders' quarters, were started in the European Lunatic Asylum at Bhowanipur, and the additional accommodation for patients in the Lunatic Asylum, Berhampore, which had been commenced in the previous year, was completed. Certain improvements were made in the dispensary building at Utterpara, and quarters were constructed for the compounder. The isolation hospital at Barisal was completed.

Registration.

419. A sum of Rs. 8,148 was spent up to the 31st March 1913 on the extension of the registration office, Alipore, and the conversion of the existing rooms into a record-room. The registration office, Khulna, was completed at a cost of Rs. 34,413, and a corrugated-iron shed was erected in the compound for the registrants and deed-writers. The extension of the registration offices at Dinajpur and Chittagong was completed. The construction of sub-registration offices at Arambagh, Nandail, Dewanganj, Lahirihat and Birganj was in progress. A sub-registration office was constructed at Pangsa, but some additional filling in of the site was still in progress. The sub-registration office at Phulbari was acquired.

Miscellaneous.

420. The services of the Arboricultural Adviser and his staff were transferred from the control of the Director of Agriculture to that of the Dacca Station Committee, which was formed late in the year to take steps for the conservation of the compounds of public buildings and open spaces in the new civil station, Dacca, and to advise as to the area which it is proposed to allot to the University. In the Albert Victor Leper Asylum at Gobra additions and alterations were made in the insane leper ward, quarters were erected for the servants, and land was acquired for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters. Additions, alterations, and thorough repairs were made in the premises occupied by the animal-vaccination depôt at Entally, at a cost of Rs. 9,412; a calf-shed was erected at a cost of Rs. 19,489, and a strip of land was acquired for diverting the Municipal drain which at present runs inside the compound wall. Some parts of the compound wall of the Bengal Veterinary College at Belgachia were raised at a cost of Rs. 9,891, and the dog ward in the college was finished. Materials were collected for the construction of quarters for Leadsmen apprentices of the Bengal Pilot Service on the Government land at Porabazar, Bhowanipur.

Public Works Department Buildings.

421. The Public Works Department subdivisional quarters and office at Khulna were completed at a cost of Rs. 20,723.

Contribution works.

422. The statue of Lord Curzon was erected on the Calcutta Maidan in March 1913, and was unveiled on the 8th April 1913. Land was under acquisition for the construction of hostels for the Metropolitan, Ripon and Bangabasi Colleges, Calcutta. Improvements were made in the electric installation at the Senate House. A fire-brigade building was constructed at Sibpur. The construction of Kanai Lal Seal's out-door dispensary at the General Hospital, Howrah, with an operation room attached to it, was well in hand. A separate ward for sick children was constructed on the ground-floor of the Eden Hospital, Calcutta, from the endowment of the late Nistarini Dasi. Six lights and four fans were installed in the Gocul Das Hansraj block and in the Rai Shew Prosad Jhun Jhun Walla's block at the Medical College, Calcutta. Two hundred and twenty-three lights were

installed in the Eden Hostel. At the Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling, the remodelling of the drain round the main building was finished, and the construction of the Baker Memorial ward in the surgical ward and the conversion of the dandy shed into an X-ray room were in progress. The water-supply to the town of Kurseong and the water-supply for drinking and household purposes at Teesta Bazar were completed. Improvements were carried out in the water-supply of the bazar and rest-house, and in the water-works system below the police-station at Kalimpong.

COMMUNICATIONS.

423. An estimate amounting to Rs. 34,870 for widening the metalled portion of the Budge-Budge road was sanctioned, and the work was started. **24-Parganas.**

424. The Government land on either side of the Grand Trunk Road in the Howrah district was demarcated, and the flanks were metalled. **Howrah.**

425. The unmetalled portion of the Calcutta-Jessore Road in the Jessore district (9½ miles) was metalled. **Jessore.**

426. The causeway under construction on the 75th mile of the Grand Trunk Road was completed. **Burdwan.**

427. The Inspection bungalow with out-houses at Dantan, commenced in the previous year, was completed. **Midnapore.**

428. The widening of the road from Jore bungalow to the Teesta river *viâ* Peshoke, over part of the 7th mile, was completed, and the work of increasing the breadth of the metalled portion of Matigara Hill Cart Road, from the junction of the Darjiling Hill Cart Road to the Matigara-Kurseong turning, was taken in hand. A portion of the road from Panighata to Dudhiajhora was also widened. The reconstruction of the Inspection bungalow at Kalijhora on the Teesta Valley road was completed. **Darjeeling.**

429. A bridge over the Kurti river at Nagrakata in the Duars was completed. **Jalpaiguri.**

430. Materials were collected for an Inspection bungalow at Hilli on the Hilli-Balurghat Road. **Dinajpur.**

431. The parts of the Mymensingh and Dewan Bazar roads lying within the new Civil Station at Dacca were remetalled with stone. **Dacca.**

432. An estimate amounting to Rs. 99,124 was sanctioned for the improvement of the Strand Road at Chittagong, and the work was started. **Chittagong.**

433. The work of improving and bridging the Rangamati-Mahalsory Road in the Chittagong Hill Tracts was in progress. **Chittagong Hill Tracts.**

ARBORICULTURE.

434. Arboricultural operations along the roads in charge of the Public Works Department were carried out to the extent of funds available.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

435. Improvements in the electric lighting of the Eden Gardens were completed. Twenty-four ornamental posts, each with a 600 candle-power lamp, were erected in these gardens. **Calcutta.**

A license called the "Calcutta River License, 1912," was granted to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, for extending its high tension current across the river Hooghly to Howrah and its neighbourhood, and for supplying electricity to jetties and steamers on the river.

436. For the protection of public buildings at Arambagh, in the district of Hooghly, revetments were commenced along the left bank of the Darkeswar river and the protective works along the foreshore at Serampore opposite the public buildings were finished. **Hooghly.**

437. Along the bank of the Mechi river, between British territory and Nepal, the positions of the missing boundary pillars were determined and their reconstruction was completed. **Darjeeling.**

The masonry drains on the Hospital and Jail *jhoras* in the town of Darjeeling were remodelled according to the suggestions made by the com-

mittee appointed by Government in October 1911 to consider the safety of the Darjeeling station, and the work of remodelling that in the Bryngwyn *jhora* was in progress.

Dacca. 438. The Dacca Electric Supply Company, which was granted a license by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the supply of electricity in the town of Dacca, requested Government to guarantee an annual consumption of 120,000 units in their buildings at Dacca, on the ground that its prospects were affected by the removal of their head-quarters from Dacca on the reconstitution of the Provinces on the 1st April 1912. A guarantee was granted for a period of 10 years, one of the conditions being that the company should afford facilities for the training of students at its Power-station.

The Company commenced the construction of the Power-house and the erection of wires for the supply of electricity in the old town and the new Civil Station before the close of the year.

Bakarganj. 439. Three additional brick groynes were constructed during the year to protect the river bank at Barisal from erosion.

The existing rows of bamboo palisading at Patuakhali were improved, and a third row was added. The palisading has proved successful in front of the sub-jail, where silt has gradually been deposited.

Faridpur. 440. At Madaripur part of the protective palisading was strengthened.

Noakhali. 441. The observations, started in 1911-12, of the erosion of the river at Noakhali were continued. It was observed that the shoal on the east had advanced, and that shoals were forming on the north side of Char Jubbar opposite Noakhali. Higher up, at the point of bifurcation, the tendency of the river was to cut into the island to the north of Chur Hatiya and at the same time to shoal up along the coast. These signs are considered hopeful.

CONTRIBUTION WORKS.

Darjeeling. 442. The following works which were in progress in 1911-12 were completed during the year :—

(1) Stable for the Darjeeling Improvement Fund bungalow at Senchal.
(2) Improvements to the bazar and rest-house water-supply, Kalimpong.
(3) Water-supply works of the town of Kurseong.
(4) Water-supply for drinking and household purposes at Teesta Bazar.

The following works were taken in hand and completed :—

(1) Additions and alterations to the Darjeeling Improvement bungalow at Rikissum.
(2) Improvements to the water-supply system below the police-station at Kalimpong.
(3) Constructing a fuel godown and sweepers' quarters attached to Darjeeling Improvement Fund bungalow at Senchal.

Railways.

Administration. 443. There are no railways under the direct administration of the Government of Bengal. The Government of India (Railway Board) control all the more important lines while the following small private lines of local importance are subject to a certain measure of control by the Government of Bengal :—

	Gauge. Ft.	In.	Miles.
(1) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway ...	2	0	51·00
(2) Tarkeswar-Magra Railway	2	6	33·27
(3) Howrah-Amta Light Railway ...	2	0	43·87
(4) Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railway ...	2	0	19·75
(5) Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway ...	2	6	51·12
			199·01

Mileage.

444. During the year the open mileage was increased as follows :—

	Miles.
Standard gauge (5′ 6″).	
Hooghly-Katwa Railway (Bandel Junction to Katwa)	64·75
Barharwa-Azimganj-Katwa Railway (Dhulian Ganges to Jangipur Road)	18·24
Metre gauge (3′ 3⅜″).	
Raja Bhatkhawa-Dhalsingpara Branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway (Raja Bhatkhawa Junction to Kalchini)	7·34
Singhjani-Fulchari Extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway (Singhjani to Fulchari)	26·21
	116·54

With these additions the open mileage in the Province on 31st March 1913 was as follows :—

	Miles.
Standard gauge (5′ 6″)	1,235·02
Metre „ (3′ 3⅜″)	1,125·66
2′ 6″ „	119·63
2′ 0″ „	114·62
	2,594·93

Lines sanctioned and under construction.

445. The following lines were under construction or sanctioned for construction during the year :—

	Gauge. Ft.	In.	Miles.
East Indian Railway—			
Dhulian Ganges to Katwa	5	6	84·70
Eastern Bengal State Railway—			
Approaches to Chitpur yard (Dum-Dum Junction to Canal Junction) ...	5	6	2·84
Sara to Santahar	5	6	48·51
Lower Ganges Bridge at Sara (Bhairamara to a point near Gopalpur)	5	6	14·22
Kalchini to Dalsingpara	3	3⅜	10·18
Assam-Bengal Railway—			
Bhairab Bazar to Tangi	3	3⅜	39·46
Jessore-Jhenidah Railway with Branch from Kaligani to Kotchandpur ...	2	6	36·80

Surveys completed.

446. The following surveys were completed during the year :—

By the East Indian Railway—

A third line from Bandel to Burdwan, 5′ 6″ gauge, 41·82 miles.

By the Eastern Bengal State Railway—

(1) From Godagari *viâ* Rampur-Boalia to Natore, 5′ 6″ gauge, 41·65 miles.
(2) From Khulna to Bagerhat, 2′ 6″ gauge, 20 miles.
(3) From Khulna *viâ* Gournadi to Barisal with a branch to Madaripur (Reconnaissance survey only), 2′ 6″ gauge, 67·13 miles.
(4) From Kurigram *viâ* Ramna to Chilmari, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, 21·50 miles.
(5) From Nachoal *viâ* Rampur-Boalia to Gopalpur, 5′ 6″ gauge, 50 miles.
(6) From Santahar to Malda, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, 54·39 miles.
(7) From Santahar to Parbatipur, 5′ 6″ gauge, 61·90 miles.
(8) From Sara to Serajganj, 5′ 6″ gauge, 76·35 miles.
(9) From Teesta to Kurigram, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, 15·00 miles.

By the Bengal Duars Railway—

From Chalsa to Matelli, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, 5·31 miles.

Surveys sanctioned.

447. Authority was given to undertake the following surveys during the year :—

To the East Indian Railway—

From Burdwan *vid* Kamarkundu to Howrah, 5′ 6″ gauge, about 55 miles.

To the Eastern Bengal State Railway—

(1) From a point in the vicinity of Kamarkundu on the Tarkeswar Branch of the East Indian Railway to a point on the Eastern Bengal State Railway main line north of Dum-Dum Junction crossing the Hooghly river in the vicinity of Panihatti, 5′ 6″ gauge.

(2) From Mymensingh to Tangail with an extension to Porabari or Elashin, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, about 56 miles.

(3) From Navaran, a station on the Central section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, to Satkhira, 5′ 6″ gauge, 26 miles.

To the Assam-Bengal Railway—

(1) From Bhairab Bazar to Netrokona with a branch from Iswarganj to Mymensingh, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, about 86 miles.

(2) From Netrokona to the foot of the Garo Hills, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, about 24 miles.

To the Bengal-Nagpur Railway—

From Vishnupur Station on the Jherriah Extension of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to Santragachi, 5′ 6″ gauge, about 75 miles.

To Messrs. Khetter Mohan Dey & Co.—

From Kalighat in Calcutta to Fatehpur, 2′ 6″ gauge, about 18 miles.

To Messrs. McLeod & Co., of Calcutta—

From Bankura on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to meet the proposed Vishnupur-Santragachi chord railway in the vicinity of Bagua, 2′ 6″ gauge, about 64 miles.

To Messrs. Martin & Co., of Calcutta—

From Contai Road Station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to Contai, 2′ 6″ gauge, about 36 miles.

Other projects.

448. Messrs. H. V. Low & Co. decided not to proceed with the construction of the proposed light railway from Krishnagar to Jellinghi, a distance of 56 miles, for which they had entered into a provisional agreement with the District Board of Nadia and had received a concession from the Government of India. Mr. W. A. Radice, who expressed his willingness to proceed with the scheme on his own account and on his own responsibility, was directed to approach the District Board of Nadia with a view to obtain the Board's permission to carry the matter further under a guarantee similar to that which they were willing to grant to Messrs. H. V. Low & Co.

Messrs. Martin & Co., of Calcutta, have entered into a provisional agreement with the District Board of Midnapore for the construction of a light railway from Contai Road Station to Contai under the provisions of the Bengal Tramways Act, III of 1883. Permission was given to this firm to carry out the detailed survey of the alignment, and a survey notification was published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, but they were given to understand that the line should be constructed under the Indian Railways Act, IX of 1890.

Mr. Nibaran Chandra Dutta, of Calcutta, was granted a concession on rebate terms, under the branch line terms of 1910, to float a Branch Line Company for the construction of a 2′ 6″ gauge railway from Khulna to Bagerhat, about 21 miles in length.

A concession was granted to Messrs. Khetter Mohan Dey & Co., of Calcutta, for the construction of a railway on the 2′ 6″ gauge from Jessore to Jhenidah, with a branch from Kaliganj to Kotchandpur. The line was in course of construction during the year.

Important works.

449. The following important works were completed during the year —

Eastern Bengal State Railway—

(1) The up and down quadruple lines between Kankinara and Kakurgachi Road.

(2) The relaying of the Bongong-Ranaghat Branch and of the down main line between Poradaha and Ranaghat with 90 lbs. flat-footed steel rails, as also of 86 miles of the line from Narayanganj to Mymensingh with second-hand 62 lbs. flat-footed steel rails.

The following important works were in progress at the end of 1912 :—

Eastern Bengal State Railway—

The construction of the independent broad-gauge line from Sara to Santahar, 48·51 miles; the remodelling of Calcutta (Sealdah) and Balliaghatta yards—New carrriage and wagon shops at Kanchrapara.

As regards the lines under construction, good progress has been made generally. In particular, on the Lower Ganges Bridge near Sara three quarters of the Raita Ghat guide bank, the stone pitched guide bank on either flank, and over two-thirds of the earthwork required for the approaches were completed. The five well-foundations started in 1911 were completed and two piers built. Of the six other well-foundations started, two were nearly finished.

Congestion of traffic.

450. The special difficulty with which the Railway Administrations had to grapple during the year was the inability of the Indian Railways to transport with promptitude and efficiency the merchandise offered to them by the public. This difficulty was specially acute in connection with the coal traffic. The Indian Mining Association's memorial on the subject was forwarded to the Government of India for transmission to the Secretary of State.

It may be noted, however, that for the last six years it has been the steady policy of the Railway Board and the Board of Directors of Railway Companies to improve the capacity of open lines and to increase the rolling stock. An important conference was held, partly in Calcutta and partly in the coal fields, at which the difficulties of coal traffic were discussed between the Railway Administrations and the representatives of the coal trade. The surveys of the proposed Burdwan-Howrah and Vishnupur-Santragachi chords were sanctioned with the object of giving relief to the congestion on the existing East Indian and Bengal-Nagpur Railways' main lines. Sir Henry Burt, who was put on special duty as an additional Member of the Railway Board solely in connection with this congestion, investigated on the spot the congested jute traffic on the Eastern Bengal State Railway and suggested that the removal of the Hatkhola Jute Mart to some other suitable site might give the required relief. This question will be dealt with by a Committee about to be formed to deal with the transport facilities for the trade of Calcutta. It may thus be said that there are good grounds to hope that a marked improvement will be visible in each successive year.

Bridge over the Old Brahmaputra.

451. The Bengal and the Narayanganj Chambers of Commerce asked that a headway of not less than 35 feet should be left under the proposed bridge over the old Brahmaputra river at Bhairab Bazar, on the Bhairab Bazar Tangi Branch of the Assam-Bengal Railway. After careful investigation of the traffic on the river, it was finally decided that a headway of 23 feet above the Railway Company's working high flood level should be provided. This was accepted by the Assam-Bengal Railway authorities

Working of Light Railways.

452. The light railways in Bengal were worked successfully and continued to yield a fair return to their shareholders and to the District Boards concerned.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1912-13. Statistics of British India, Part III.—Commercial Services.]

453. The following statement is a summary of the works of irrigation and navigation carried out by the Irrigation Department, Bengal Presidency, excluding flood and drainage works :—

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

HEADS.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1912-13.	Expenditure to end of 1912-13.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1913.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges ...	1.08,59,500	1,198	1,08,59,757	(-) 257
Indirect „ ...	2,48,603	30	2,48,674	(-) 71
Total ...	1,11,08,103	1,228	1,11,08,431	(-) 328
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges ...	1,19,91,017	99,762	1,14,11,063	5,79,954
Indirect „ ...	1,35,727	(-) 6,562	1,72,554	(-) 36,827
Total ...	1,21,26,744	93,200	1,15,83,617	5,43,127

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

HEADS.	Receipts.	WORKING EXPENSES.			Net revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works.	2,73,212	2,35,007	11,380	2,46,387	26,825
Minor Works and Navigation.					
Works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept.	5,24,436	5,31,781	25,412	5,57,193	(-) 32,757
Works for which only revenue accounts are kept.	32,659	1,47,096	9,618	1,56,714	(-) 1,24,055
Works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept.	* 36,489	20,642	...	20,642	15,847

* Exclusive of Rs. 54,332 and Rs. 48,691 spent, respectively, on the improvement of the navigable channels of the Ganges river and River Improvement Works, Eastern districts.

Irrigation.

454. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennial period ending March 1912 :—

	Midnapore Canal (Major Works).			Eden Canal (Minor Works).		
	Kharif, inclusive of hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.	Kharif, inclusive of hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the triennium ending March 1912.	75,116	2	75,118	21,790	335	22,125
For 1912-13	80,958	...	80,958	26,720	293	27,013

Lengths of canals.

455. The lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year 1912-13, are identical with those reported in 1911-12 :—

	Midnapore Canal. Miles.	Eden Canal. Miles.
Main canals, irrigation	53	27½
Branch canals, ditto	16·75	
Distributaries of above	254·54	17⅔
Navigable channels	69·75	...

Navigation.

456. The following statement shows the traffic on the navigable canals during the year 1912-13 as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1912 :—

	Midnapore Canal.	Hijili Tidal Canal.	Calcutta and Eastern Canals.	Madaripur Bhil Route.	Nadia Rivers.
	For the year 1912-13.	For the year 1912-13.	For the year 1912-13.	For the year 1912-13.	For the year 1912-13.
Length of canal open ... Miles	69¾	29	1,115	21	507½
Receipts ... ... Rs.	40,662	59,950	4,00,833	1,01,512	28,465
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement ... ... Tons.	415,405	210,551	1,118,186	397,000	150,027
Estimated weight of cargo ,,	99,533	79,792	686,828	262,030	105,351
Estimated value of goods Rs.	97,54,965	68,30,115	8,16,07,851	4,08,60,367	1,70,01,987
Estimated value of rafts ,,	15,874	9,855	76,610	13,484	42,978

Discharge of rivers.

457. In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, the discharges of the Damodar and Ajai rivers and three rivers in Birbhum were observed during the year.

Classification of Irrigation and Navigation Works.

458. The classification of works dealt with in this review is as follows :—

Major Works.—The Midnapore and Hijili Tidal Canals. The latter is for navigation only, while the former provides for irrigation also. The original capital account of these canals has been closed, and all present capital outlay is charged against the head of "Minor Works and Navigation."

Minor Works and Navigation.—(*i*) The works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept include the Calcutta and Eastern canals, the Madaripur Bhil Route and portion of the Orissa Coast Canal, which are all for navigation, and also the Utterbhag Lock, now under construction in connection with the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme, which will be for navigation only. (*ii*) The works for which only revenue accounts are kept are the Nadia Rivers and the Gaighata and Baxi khal, used for navigation only, as well as the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme in the 24-Parganas district, which is being carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII of 1895. (*iii*) The works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept include (*a*) the Eden Canal, which is used partly for irrigation and partly to afford a supply of water for drinking and sanitation, and (*b*) training works carried on the rivers Ganges, Bhagirathi, Gorai, Dhaleswari and Buriganga.

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly stated below, by circles of superintendence.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation works.

Midnapore Canal.

Capital account. 459. The capital account of the Midnapore canal was debited with Rs. 1,198 (direct charges) for the construction of a distributary at Hasimpur on the 4th mile of distributary No. 3. The total capital outlay for direct charges was Rs. 83,08,952.

Flood. 460. The highest flood in the Cossye river occurred on the 18th August 1912, when the gauge at Mohonpur read 86·00 against the highest recorded flood level of 94·50 on the 2nd September 1907. No damage was done to any part of the irrigated area.

Rainfall. 461. The rainfall at Midnapore during the year was 59·51 inches against 54·46 inches of the previous year. It was sufficient and was of some help to irrigation.

Irrigation. 462. The area irrigated from the canal was 80,958 acres as against 80,975 acres in the previous year. The demand for water was moderate and irrigation effected was satisfactory. All the leased areas were successfully irrigated and the condition of the crops was satisfactory.

The demand of Rs. 1,57,152 for water-rates due during the year was realized practically in full before the close of the year, the balance uncollected being only Rs. 31.

Navigation. 463. The navigation receipts during the year were Rs. 40,662, as against Rs. 35,470 in the previous year. The increase was chiefly due to good crops during the year. No. 1 distributary of the canal was closed to traffic from 1st February 1913 to the end of the year for silt clearance.

Financial results. 464. The gross revenue and the working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Midnapore canal amounted to Rs. 2,20,412 and Rs. 2,16,874, respectively, as against Rs. 2,15,184 and Rs. 2,59,994 in the preceding year. The increase in gross receipts is chiefly under "Navigation" and is due to the good outturn of crops. The decrease in working expenses is mainly under establishment and is due to the discontinuance of the system under which an increased establishment was allotted to this canal in 1911-12.

Hijili Tidal Canal. 465. There was no outlay chargeable to the capital account of the canal. The total capital outlay (direct charges) amounted to Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 52,800 and Rs. 29,513, respectively, as against Rs. 62,651 and Rs. 35,234 in 1911-12, and the net revenue to Rs. 23,287 against Rs. 27,417 in the preceding year. No heavy or special repairs were executed and the cost of maintenance was therefore comparatively low. There were no high floods in any of the rivers crossed by the canal.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

Capital account. 466. There was a net credit of Rs. 82,320 to the capital account chiefly on account of the hire of the dredger *Foyers*. Some outlay was made on demarcating the Government land along Tolly's Nala from Hastings Bridge to Samukpotta, and surveying the Adashai river with a view to preparing an estimate for its improvement as a link in the Sundarbans steamer route. A sum of Rs. 12,741 (direct charges) was also expended in connection with the proposed Hooghly-Bidyadhari canal. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year stood at Rs. 83,02,218.

467. The receipts from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 4,00,833 as compared with Rs. 4,14,406 in the preceding year. The gross receipts fell from Rs. 4,35,658 to Rs. 4,21,343, chiefly owing to fluctuations in traffic; and the working expenses (direct and indirect) rose from Rs. 3,10,421 to Rs. 4,63,224. There was therefore a deficit of Rs. 41,881 against a net revenue of Rs. 1,25,237 in the preceding year. The increase in working expenses is due to the fact that a sum of Rs. 93,416, representing the excess charge under establishment of the Madaripur Bhil Route, capital account of 1911-12, was debited to the revenue account of these canals during the year under review. Navigation receipts.

468. The expenditure (direct charges) debitable to the capital account was Rs. 1,76,315 for works only. This was incurred on dredging the channel through the *bhil*, dredging the Lower Kumar river, which was begun during the year, and constructing a toll office and other works in connection with the scheme. The total capital outlay (direct charges) amounted to Rs. 29,89,830 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 34,32,491. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were respectively Rs. 1,03,093 and Rs. 93,969 as against Rs. 1,23,706 and Rs. 7,483 in the year 1911-12. The decrease in receipts was due chiefly to abnormal shoals at the western entrance of the route but partly to the reduction of toll charges on passenger boats. The increase in working expenses was due to heavy expenditure on the dredging of the Manickdah entrance channel. The maundage of boats and steamers was 11,225,338 against 13,993,668 of the previous year. Madaripur Bhil route.

469. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 3,675 and Rs. 8,956, respectively, as against Rs. 3,675 and Rs. 4,579 in the previous year. The increase was due to the expenditure of Rs. 6,035 upon the clearing of silt from the khal. Tolls and fishing rights were again leased out for Rs. 4,900. Gaighatta and Baxi Khal.

470. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 36,489 and Rs. 20,642, respectively, as against Rs. 31,968 and Rs. 28,331, in the year 1911-12. The increase in receipts was due to 2,662 acres more being irrigated than in the previous year. Eden Canal.

471. A sum of Rs. 73,852 (direct charges) was spent on the Utterbhag lock on the Peali river, which is intended to admit boats from the Sundarbans and Eastern rivers to the channels constructed under the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme. The sanctioned estimate for the project is Rs. 1,41,825, including direct and indirect charges, against which the expenditure to the end of 1912-13 was Rs. 1,08,498. It is expected that the lock will be completed in the year 1913-14. Utterbhag Lock.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

Minor Works and Navigation.

472. The channels comprised in the Nadia Rivers have a total length of 500½ miles, made up as follows :— Nadia Rivers.

	Miles.
Faracca channel from the Ganges to Biswanathpur ...	25
Bhagirathi river from Biswanathpur-Bhagirathi entrance to Nadia	144
Bhairab-Jalangi from entrance to Nadia	165½
Mathabhanga from entrance to junction with the Hooghly	136
Hooghly from Nadia to Mathabhanga junction ...	32

The decrease of 7 miles in the length of the Bhagirathi is due to the river route being shortened through the Hoshanga khal and Kalidata chord. No capital account is kept. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 28,984 and Rs. 1,47,758, respectively, as against Rs. 33,506 and Rs. 84,821, in the preceding year. The decrease in receipts was

due to a falling off in the number of steamers and flats owing to poor harvests and the extensions of railways on both sides of the Bhagirathi. The increase in expenditure is attributed to the increased outlay in training works in the Bhagirathi and Jalangi rivers, and also to the adjustment of the value of the steam-launch *Marjorie* transferred from the South-Western Circle. The number of boats using these rivers was 16,100 against 17,080 in the previous year.

Ganges Training Works between Digha and Damukdia.

473. Government again decided to continue these operations, and a steamer was chartered from the India General Navigation and Railway Company for six months for the use of the Public Works Department officer in charge of the conservancy works. The number of shoals trained was 14, of which 13 were situated in the province of Bihar and Orissa and only 1, viz., the Bengari shoal, within this Presidency. The result of the season's work was that a minimum depth of water varying from 5 to 8 feet was maintained over all the shoals trained with the exception of Bazitpur shoal, where the depth was reduced to 4 feet 6 inches for one week only. The cost to Government was Rs. 25,821. inclusive of all charges, against Rs. 22,543 in the preceding year. These sums would have been considerably increased but for the fact that the materials for training works were carried free of cost by the steamer companies interested in the work. It has been decided that the entire cost of the Ganges Training Works from Digha to Damukdia for the three years 1912—15 will be borne by this Government.

Dredging the entrance of the Bhagirathi from the Ganges.

474. The usual training works were undertaken to scour the Biswanathpur shoal and so to admit as large a volume of water as possible into the Bhagirathi, at the entrance of which it forms. A length of 2,400 feet of the shoal was dredged during the year and the channel was also bandalled, with the effect that a minimum depth of 4 feet was maintained throughout the dry season in the dredged channel. The lower entrance shoals were also trained by bandalling with a minimum depth of 1 foot 6 inches. The combined effect of dredging and bandalling in time induced a current throughout the year; this not only helped navigation, but afforded a supply of good drinking water to important towns and villages.

Dredging the Gorai entrance.

475. Dredging was carried out at the Gorai entrance at a cost of Rs. 3,302. The dredging was started on 23rd January 1913 and continued till 13th February 1913. The length of the shoal was 1,200 feet, all of which was dredged except 350 feet which were left undredged at the request of the Engineer-in-Chief, Lower Ganges Bridge. The dredging operations may be considered to have been successful. They maintained a navigable channel with a minimum depth of 6 feet throughout the whole length of the channel.

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Ganges Training Works below Rampur Boalia.

476. Training works were carried out on the river Ganges at Rampur Boalia as usual to improve navigation as well as the sanitary conditions and water-supply of the town. The work was executed by the India General Navigation and Railway Company and the River Steam Navigation Company, Limited, with a subsidy of Rs. 5,000 from Government. As the Ganges was unusually low during the year, the bandalling work did not prove a success.

EASTERN CIRCLE.

Training Works in the Burigunga and Dhaleswari rivers.

477. The work of improving the Dhaleswari and Burigunga rivers for navigation and for the water-supply of the town of Dacca was carried out during the year, Rs. 17,758 being spent on dredging and Rs. 20,043 on bandalling the various shoals. The least depth of water on any shoal at the driest time of the year was 2 feet 6 inches and the operations may be considered to have been successful.

Embankments and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage reports for the year 1912-13.]

Expenditure.

478. The expenditure incurred on works and repairs (exclusive of book charges for establishment, tools, and plant) during the year amounted to Rs. 5,16,009.

Length of Embankments.

479. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by Government in this Presidency is 1,359 miles 2,681 feet. These embankments protect an area of 3,524,535 acres, and are generally effective against ordinary floods, but a few are liable to be overtopped when the floods are exceptionally high.

Floods.

480. The only high floods during the year were in the Bhagirathi, Mathabhanga and Jalangi rivers in the Central Circle. In the South Western Circle a moderate flood occurred in the Cossye river on the 18th August 1912. There was also a flood in the Barchowka Jheel, which skirts the Argowal embankment in its 21st to 24th miles ; this was mainly due to heavy rainfall and the insufficient provision for drainage afforded by the Balliaghye main drain, which has in recent years silted up considerably. In the Damodar river there were only six freshets during the year, but no damage was done to the embankments and there was no loss of crops in the spill area.

Breaches.

481. There were no breaches in any of the schedule D and *takavi* embankments during the year. In the Cossye and Northern Drainage and Embankment Divisions 60 cuts were allowed in the embankments for the purpose of irrigation and drainage, as well as for *boro* cultivation.

Surveys.

482. The survey of the Moraganga from Garia to Surjipur was completed. A survey was made in connection with the proposed retirement of the Buxi *khal* embankment, and another was in progress for a line of canal from Hara to Kuttali. The Railway Department in conjunction with the Public Works Department made a survey for the preparation of a chart of the Bidyadhari river at Bansra. About one-forth of the total length of the Bhagirathi embankments, starting from Plassey, was levelled to the ground.

Original works.

483. The outlay under this head during the year amounted to Rs. 28,143, which was expended chiefly on the re-excavation of the Kausiki Channel, the construction of an Inspection bungalow at Utterbhag, the Bonar *khal* sluice in the Government Estate at Port Canning, quarters for a Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer at Seijberia and the provision of additional accommodation for the office of the Executive Engineer at Midnapore.

Ordinary repairs.

484. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 3,21,837 as against Rs. 3,71,803 in the year 1911-12. The reduction was due to there being less expenditure on retired lines.

Works undertaken under the provisions of—

(a) The Bengal Drainage Act VI of 1880.

485. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapur and Burojolla drainage works, in charge of the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, were maintained in good order, at a cost of Rs. 22,727 against the average amount of Rs. 11,300 fixed for their maintenance. The high cost of maintenance was due to silt-clearance work in the Bally *khal* and special repairs to the inner gates of the Baidyabati and Bonderbil sluices.

(b) The Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII of 1895.

486. The only work which has as yet been carried out under this Act is the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme in the 24-Parganas district. The work is estimated to cost Rs. 20,73,091 and the expenditure to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 19,94,039, including Rs. 47,459 expended during the year. The capital account was closed on the 31st March 1914. The scheme provides for navigation as well as drainage, and navigation rules were made and a schedule of tolls was fixed with effect from 1st May 1914.

(c) The Bengal Embankment Act, II of 1882.

487. The Argowal Drainage project was practically completed ; the outlay for the year was Rs. 8,950, making a total expenditure of Rs. 1,61,538, against the sanctioned estimate for Rs. 1,65,549. This project provides for

the drainage of 12,140 acres of lowlying land in the Contai subdivision of Midnapore, on which almost every year since the heavy floods of 1888, much damage has been done to the crops by floods consequent upon the silting up of the Rasoolpur and Haldi rivers. The several minor works were in progress or were completed. A large number of sluices in the Schedule D embankments were maintained at the cost of the estates benefited.

Drainage works carried out at the cost of Government but not under the provisions of any Act.

488. The total expenditure to the end of the year on the Bagjolla Drainage Scheme with its outfall into the Kristopur Canal, which was completed in 1911-12, was Rs. 77,628 against the sanctioned estimate for Rs. 1,28,439. The culvert at the head will not be undertaken for the present. The land charges have not yet been finally adjusted by the Civil Department.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Gross Revenue.

Gross Revenue.

489. The following statement shows the gross revenue (*i.e.*, the total of Imperial and Provincial Revenues) for 1912-13 as compared with that of 1911-12 :—

[The figures are in thousands.]

	1911-12.			1912-13.		
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—						
Land Revenue ...	*1,14,45	2,54,42	3,68,87	—27,37	3,07,13	2,79,76
Opium	7,55,11	...	7,55,11	5,04,56	...	5,04,56
Salt	1,25,97	...	1,25,97	1,18,85	...	1,18,85
Stamps	1,00,56	1,00,56	2,01,12	1,03,73	1,03,73	2,07,46
Excise	33,47	1,00,41	1,33,88	...	1,37,59	1,37,59
Provincial Rates ...	...	31,75	31,75	...	32,02	32,02
Customs	2,96,33	...	2,96,33	3,19,51	...	3,19,51
Assessed Taxes ...	26,74	26,73	53,47	27,76	27,76	55,52
Forest	...	13,87	13,87	...	16,01	16,01
Registration	...	17,34	17,34	...	18,23	18,23
Tributes	...	...	...	68	...	68
Total ...	14,52,63	5,45,08	19,97,71	10,47,72	6,42,47	16,90,19
Interest	12,61	5,22	17,83	12,11	5,01	17,12
Receipts by Civil Department—						
Law and Justice, Courts of Law.	...	7,61	7,61	...	8,15	8,15
Jails	...	8,31	8,31	...	7,03	7,03
Police	...	1,88	1,88	...	2,39	2,39
Ports and Pilotage ...	...	16,95	16,95	...	17,52	17,52
Education	...	7,33	7,33	...	7,65	7,65
Medical	...	3,63	3,63	...	4,27	4,27
Scientific and other Minor Departments.	...	2,37	2,37	...	2,18	2,18
Total ...	...	48,08	48,08	...	49,19	49,19
Miscellaneous—						
Receipts in aid of superannuations.	1,70	43	2,13	1,81	48	2,29
Stationery and Printing ...	1	1,30	1,31	1	1,20	1,21
Miscellaneous	51	6,35	6,86	39	7,72	8,11
Total ...	2,22	8,08	10,30	2,21	9,40	11,61
Irrigation—						
Major Works (direct receipt).	1,39	1,39	2,78	1,37	1,37	2,74
Minor Works and Navigation—						
By Public Works Department	3,34	3,36	6,70	3,20	3,20	6,40
„ Civil Department ...	25	25	50	25	25	50
Total ...	4,98	5,00	9,98	4,82	4,82	9,64
Buildings and Roads—						
Civil Works—						
By Public Works Department.	85	4,62	5,47	64	3,83	4,47
By Civil Department ...	...	1,55	1,55	...	1,43	1,43
Total ...	85	6,17	7,02	64	5,26	5,90
GRAND TOTAL ...	14,73,29	6,17,63	20,90,92	10,67,50	7,16,15	17,83,65

* Exclusive of assignments which cannot be determined for new Bengal.

The chief variations are explained in the sections on Imperial and Provincial Finance.

B.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

Imperial Receipts.

490. The following statement shows the Imperial receipts in 1912-13 as compared with those of 1911-12 :—

(The figures are in thousands.)

Major heads of receipts.	1911-12.	1912-13.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	1,14,45	—27,37	.....	1,41,82
II.—Opium	7,55,11	5,04,56	.....	2,50,55
III.—Salt	1,25,97	1,18,85	.....	7,12
IV.—Stamps	1,00,56	1,03,73	3,17	.....
V.—Excise	33,47	.....	.....	33,47
VII.—Customs	2,96,33	3,19,51	2,318	.....
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	26,74	27,76	1,02	.....
XI.—Tributes	.....	68	68	.....
XII.—Interest	12,61	12,11	.....	50
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation.	1,70	1,81	11	.....
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1	1	.....	.....
XXV.—Miscellaneous	51	39	.....	12
XXIX.—Irrigation—Major Works (P.W.)	1,39	1,37	.....	2
XXX.— Ditto Minor Works (Civil)	25	25	.....	.....
XXX.— Ditto Ditto (P. W.)	3,34	3,20	.....	14
XXXI.—Civil Works (P.W.) ...	85	64	.....	21
Total ...	14,73,29	10,67,50	28,16	4,33,95

The variations shown in the above table were mainly due to the following causes :—*Land Revenue*—The actuals of 1911-12 were exclusive of assignments which could not be determined for new Bengal. If such assignments had been excluded for 1912-13 the actuals would have shown an increase, due to larger survey and settlement recoveries ; *Opium*—There were no sales of certified opium from November 1912, and lower prices were obtained at the sales on a smaller number of uncertified chests ; *Salt*—There was a development of the credit system and smaller consumption owing to restricted imports caused by the Coal strike in England ; *Stamps*—An improvement under "General Stamps" resulted from the flourishing state of the Jute and Tea trades ; *Excise*—The Imperial share of the charges decreased from one-fourth to nil, *i.e.*, they were made wholly Provincial ; *Customs*—There was an improvement in import and excise duties on Cotton manufactures ; *Assessed Taxes*—Larger profits were made by Companies and Banks ; *Tributes*—Represent the tribute from the Cooch Behar State ; *Interest*—The receipts were reduced by the amount of interest due to the credit of sinking fund of the Kidderpore Dock Loan ; *Receipts in aid of superannuation*—There was smaller expenditure in the Kidderpore Orphanganj Market, the net receipts of which are credited to this head ; *Miscellaneous*—There were smaller receipts from "Premium on bills" ; the withdrawal of funds for urgent demand at Calcutta at the beginning of the year somewhat reduced the amount available for bill drawings later ; *Irrigation—Major Works*—Railway competition reduced the navigation receipts in the Hijili Tidal canal ; *Minor Works* (*Public Works*)—Navigation receipts fell owing to the silting up of the Manickdah entrance channel of the Madaripur Bhil route ; *Civil Works* (*Public Works*)—The figures for 1911-12 included special receipts from the sale of structures, 8, Wellesley Place, and Dhurrumtollah Press.

491. The following statement shows the Imperial expenditure in 1912-13 as compared with that of 1911-12 :—

(The figures are in thousands.)

Major heads of expenditure.	1911-12.	1912-13.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	11,07	7,19	....	3,88
2. Assignments and compensations ...	1,00	1,13	13	.....
3. Land Revenue	16,99	17,46	47	.....
4. Opium	28	30	2	.....
5. Salt	2,59	2,83	24	.....
6. Stamps	3,23	3,54	31	.....
7. Excise	1,58	.....	.....	1,58
9. Customs	13,13	13,35	22	.....
10. Assessed Taxes	78	76	.....	2
11. Forest	.....	.....	.....	.....
14. Interest on other obligations ...	55	90	35	.....
18. General Administration ...	6,73	4,68	.....	2,05
23. Ecclesiastical	1,97	1,92	.....	5
25. Political	9	5	.....	4
26. Scientific and other Minor Departments.	2,37	68	.....	1,69
27. Territorial and Political Pensions	7,96	7,63	.....	33
29. Superannuation allowances and pensions.	38	35	.....	3
30. Stationery and Printing ...	23	40	17	.....
32 Miscellaneous	41	36	.....	5
35. Protective Irrigation Works ...	13	13	.....	.....
42. Irrigation—Major Works, Interest on Debt.	1,99	2,04	5	.....
42. Irrigation—Major Works, Working expenses.	1,39	1,17	.....	22
43. Minor Works (Civil) ...	2	1	.....	1
43. Ditto (P. W.) ...	7,80	7,67	.....	13
45. Civil Works (Civil) ...	5	5	.....	.....
45. Ditto (P. W.) ...	21,01	16,66	.....	4,35
Total ...	1,03,73	91,26	1,96	14,43

The principal fluctuations are due to the following causes :—*Refunds and Drawbacks*—The actuals of 1911-12 included heavy customs drawbacks owing to re-export of Java sugar to Europe ; *Assignments and Compensations*—Larger malikana payments ; *Land Revenue*—Larger expenditure on survey and settlement ; *Opium*—Increased freight charges ; *Salt*—Large expenditure on rent and contingencies ; *Stamps*—The increase was concomitant of the growth of revenue ; *Excise*—The charges were made wholly Provincial ; *Customs*—Larger overtime fees resulted from trade activity and also there were included a full year's charges for the testing establishment ; *Interest on other obligations*—Growth of the Government Provident Fund ; *General Administration*—The charges on account of the Account and Audit Office, Dacca, were included in 1911-12 ; *Ecclesiastical*—Smaller expenditure under "Establishment" ; *Political*—Smaller expenditure on Burmese prisoners ; *Scientific and other Minor Departments*—Smaller expenditure on account of decennial census, major portion of the work having been completed in 1911-12 ; *Territorial and Political Pensions*—Non-payment of pensions to Kulsamennissa Begum of the Nizamut Family and Jam Joh Ali of the Oudh Family owing to their demise ; *Superannuation allowances and pensions*—Smaller payment of pensions of the Military Orphan Fund ; *Stationery and Printing*—Larger supplies to the Survey and Settlement Department ; *Miscellaneous*—Smaller remittance charges ; *Irrigation—Major Works, Interest on Debt*—Rise in the rate of interest ; *Irrigation—Major Works, Working expenses*—Larger debit having been raised under "Establishment" in 1911-12 under the system of allocation adopted for that year ; *Minor Works (Civil)*—Closing of Howrah and Rajapore Drainage ; *Minor Works (P. W.)*—Smaller dredging requirements in the Madaripur Bhil route which was recently completed ; *Civil Works (P. W.)*—Expenditure on the Museum and the Imperial Secretariat Buildings in 1911-12 made further outlay unnecessary.

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[The report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1912-13. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Revenue from Customs.

492. The gross revenue from Customs (inclusive of Rs. 3·29 lakhs paid into district treasuries on account of salt imported at Calcutta) amounted to Rs. 4,17,92,000, against Rs. 4,07,59,000 in the previous year. Refunds amounted to Rs. 5,82,000, against Rs. 9,60,000, so that the net revenue amounted to Rs. 4,12,10,000, representing an increase of 4 per cent. on the previous year's figures. Both imports and exports shared in the expansion, import revenue increasing by 2 per cent. and export revenue by 7 per cent.

The gross import duties amounted to Rs. 392·04 lakhs. Of this amount salt (including inland collections) yielded Rs. 104·34 lakhs. The collections on account of other articles rose from Rs. 267·53 lakhs to Rs. 287·70 lakhs. This was chiefly due to the increase in the case of *cotton goods* (21·37 lakhs) owing to the general prosperity of trade, of *sugar* (6 lakhs) owing to a reduced demand for the article in Europe, and of *miscellaneous articles* (nearly 4 lakhs). The export duty collections rose from Rs. 24·10 lakhs to Rs. 25·88 lakhs. The decrease under *drawbacks* from Rs. 4·46 lakhs to Rs. 52,099 indicates a return to the normal after the large re-exports of sugar in 1912.

Net income.

493. The net income of the Calcutta Custom House amounted to Rs. 4,00,56,282, against Rs. 3,85,58,632 in 1911-12, representing an increase of nearly 4 per cent. The net income of the subordinate ports amounted to Rs. 14,37,665, or Rs. 5,17,898 more than in 1911-12.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act.

494. The number of cases of infringement of the Sea Customs Act was 745 against 799 in the previous year. Of these 537 cases related to under-valuation and other misdeclarations affecting duty. In six cases, action was taken under section 32 of the Act, but in no cases were the goods taken over on behalf of Government. The Preventive Department was very successful in cocaine seizures, the most notable being the one in which cocaine, weighing 248¼ lbs., was detected on board the Austrian Lloyd's S.S. *Trieste*, and the master of the vessel convicted.

Cases under the Merchandise Marks Act.

495. There were 1,079 cases of infringements under the Act against 698 cases in the previous year. Of these 879 were in respect of false trade descriptions, of which 365 related to consignments from Germany and 120 to consignments from Belgium. The penalties realized during the year amounted to Rs. 13,786, against Rs. 7,730 in 1911-12.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report of 1912-13. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Administration.

496. There was a considerable increase in the operations under the credit system of payment of duty. Securities to the extent of Rs. 43,62,800 were deposited, against Rs. 26,12,500 in 1911-12. The quantity of salt issued under the system amounted to 7,444,990 maunds, against 4,915,766 maunds in the previous year. There were 43 depositors, 6 of whom closed their accounts, leaving a balance of 37, against 22 in the previous year.

497. The total imports into Calcutta decreased by more than three lakhs of maunds or by 2·3 per cent. The United Kingdom supplied about half the total quantity, while Aden, Spain, Port Said, Bombay, Salif, Germany, Massowah, Madras and Coconada were the other principal countries of origin in the order named. There was a decrease in salt from the United Kingdom. Germany, Spain and Salif, a very great increase in Port Said and Aden salt, and a slight increase in Bombay and Massowah salt. The importation of salt from the United Kingdom was affected by the coal strike in England and the prices by competition in the local market. The large increase in Aden salt was due to the fact that the salt pans, which were recently established there, had been completed and were in thorough working order. The importation of Salif salt was affected by the Turko-Italian war. No salt came from Tunis; and only a small quantity from Madras. **Imports.**

Owing to several new merchants entering the trade there was a further great increase of 71·9 per cent. in the importations into the port of Chittagong. Aden supplied the largest quantity. The imports from Spain also increased, but imports from the United Kingdom and Germany fell off considerably. Salt was also imported from Port Said and, for the first time, from Massowah.

498. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption in this Presidency during the year 1912-13 was 7,642,905 maunds. This is exclusive of 5,854,574 maunds, the net export by rail, road or river, but inclusive of 502 maunds educed from saltpetre. There was a slight decrease of 2 pies in the average price, which was attributed to the fall in the prices of imported salt in the Calcutta and Chittagong markets. Exclusive of duty, the average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds as sold from the ship's side in the port of Calcutta was Rs. 62-3-3, against Rs. 64-7-1 in 1911-12. The Collector of Customs, Calcutta, reports that at the end of the previous year the market showed an upward tendency, and prices were on the whole fairly well maintained. In the port of Chittagong the effect of several new merchants entering the trade was to reduce prices. **Consumption and prices.**

499. The number of cases reported for offences against the Salt Law (Act XII of 1882) was 12, against 11 in the previous year. The total number of cases in which salt or salt earth was seized was 9, against 3 in 1911-12. There was no unsuccessful house search during the year. **Prosecutions.**

500. As compared with 1911-12, receipts showed a decrease of Rs. 10,94,167, or 8·4 per cent., and charges, an increase of Rs. 5,197, or 1·6 per cent. The net revenue was Rs. 1,15,45,842, which was less than that of the previous year by Rs. 10,99,364, or 8·7 per cent. **Financial results.**

501. The quantity of salt educed in the process of refining saltpetre was 608 maunds, against 806 in 1911-12, and the quantity of *sitta* (impure salt) was 907 maunds, against 1,059 in 1911-12. Five hundred and two maunds of educed salt were sold against 840 maunds of educed salt and 400 of *sitta* in the previous year. **Trade in Saltpetre Salt.**

EXCISE.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department, Bengal, for the year 1912-13. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

502. Local Committees consisting of both official and non-official members were appointed in 18 mufassal towns with a population of 20,000 or over, to consider and advise the Collectors on the proposals regarding the licensing, number, and situation of liquor shops selling country spirit, foreign liquor, *pachwai* and *tari*. Local and Municipal bodies were also consulted as to the sites of liquor shops in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, whilst in the Dacca, Chittagong, and Rajshahi Divisions they were consulted with regard to every kind of excise shops. No new shop was opened without consulting local opinion and without ascertaining local demand. **Local Advisory Committees.**

503. The total Excise revenue for the year was Rs. 1,37,59,157, an increase of Rs. 3,69,450 on the previous year. The increase is accounted for under the heads Country Spirit (Rs. 2,28,546), Opium (Rs. 1,15,016), Spirits **Revenue.**

manufactured in India paying duty at higher rates than ordinary country spirits (Rs. 27,048), *Tari* (Rs. 23,924) and *Pachwai* (Rs. 15,135). There was a decrease of Rs. 21,905 under the head *Ganja*.

Country spirit.

504. During the year the Presidency, Burdwan and Rajshahi Divisions continued to receive their supplies of country spirits from the contract distilleries at Konnagar, Asansol and Marhourah, and the central distilleries at Russa, Dacca, Faridpur and Barisal were maintained. The Chittagong Division was as in former years under the outstill system, but with the close of the year the contract supply system was extended to the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. The outstill system has thus been abolished throughout the Presidency. The central distilleries at Dacca, Faridpur, and Barisal were closed, and the Russa distillery, which supplies Calcutta and its suburbs, is the only survivor in Bengal of the system under which for so many years country liquor was supplied to the greater portion of the Presidency. In recent years, considerable improvements have been effected in this distillery which now differs little from a contract distillery ; the quality of the liquor supplied is hardly, if at all, inferior to that supplied from the more modern private distilleries.

The total increase in consumption in the distillery area was 54,750 gallons L. P. Several causes contributed to this increase in which all districts except Mymensingh shared. The year was one of unusual prosperity, particularly in the trades employing large numbers of the classes which habitually consume country spirit. This was especially the case in Calcutta and in the industrial districts within the Hooghly and Howrah districts, which accounted in part for the increased consumption of 13,535 gallons in Calcutta. A contributing cause was the decreased demand for the cheap brands of foreign liquor, of which the sale and manufacture were restricted and the import discouraged by the increase in the tariff rate. In Midnapore and Bankura there was a failure of the *mahua* crop, and therefore less temptation to illicit distillation. In the Rajshahi Division the increase was due to the more extensive use of contract liquor by the aboriginal consumers, among whom its flavour and high price as compared with outstill liquor had rendered it unpopular when first introduced. The consumption in Darjeeling still fell far short of that estimated when the outstill system was abolished in 1905. A somewhat unsatisfactory feature of the year was the effect on consumption of the reduction in the license fees in the districts to which reference was made in the Excise Commissioner's Report for 1911-12. This reduction contributed greatly to the increase in Hooghly, Midnapore, Dinajpur, and the 24-Parganas. The increase in 1911-12 in the revenue from duty, which represents the increase in consumption, was Rs. 92,509, while the increase from license fees, which means the increase of cost to the consumer, was Rs. 2,38,544 ; in 1912-13, with the rate of duty unchanged, the corresponding figures were Rs. 2,32,931 and Rs. 11,743. Although an increase was shown in the amount of license fees, this was accounted for by advance payments made in the previous March, and there was actually a decrease in the fees at which shops were settled during the year. This resulted in several districts in a reduction in the retail price and an increase in consumption accentuated by the improved circumstances of consumers. The Local Government have taken measures to divert a considerable portion of the taxation from the fluctuating source of license fees to the fixed head of duty. A revision of the rates of duty on country spirit has been made, and the duty has been raised by 10 annas per L. P. gallon in most districts of the Presidency.

Tari.

505. The number of ordinary *tari* licenses increased from 1,919 to 1,981, but as 794 season licenses were issued in 1911-12, there was actually a decrease of 732 in the total number. The gross revenue from *tari* increased from Rs. 4,26,496 to Rs. 4,50,420.

Pachwai.

506. The total number of *pachwai* licenses issued was 18,168 as compared with 18,162 in 1911-12. The receipts rose from Rs. 8,17,429 to Rs. 8,32,564. The increase was considerable in Burdwan and Bankura, while there was a decrease in Birbhum.

Foreign liquor.

507. The total number of licenses issued for the wholesale and retail sale of foreign liquor was 730, against 737 in the previous year. The total receipts from license fees amounted to Rs. 3,43,239 against Rs. 3,51,945

in the previous year. The receipts from duty on Indian-made foreign liquor were Rs. 2,26,303, against Rs. 1,99,255 in 1911-12.

Ganja.

508. There was an enormous decrease in the consumption of *ganja* in Calcutta, but this was largely counterbalanced by increases elsewhere, notably in the Rajshahi Division, and the consumption for the Presidency as a whole was only 15 maunds short of that of the previous year. It is somewhat difficult to account for the abnormal decrease in Calcutta. There seems reason to fear that the spread of the cocaine habit has not been without effect upon the consumption of *ganja*. On the other hand, a reduction in license fees and a reported increase in the *ganja* habit have swelled the consumption in other districts. This continued increase has impressed the Local Government with the necessity for taking measures to check its growth ; and with effect from the 1st April 1913 the duty has been increased from Rs. 11 to Rs. 15 per seer, with the double object of increasing the retail price and of transferring taxation from the head of license fees to duty.

Sidhi and Bhang.

509. The total consumption of *bhang* within the Presidency amounted to 698 maunds 27 seers, against 813 maunds 11 seers in the previous year. The only considerable fluctuation in consumption took place in Calcutta where there was a decrease of 119 maunds 22 seers against an increase of 164 maunds in 1911-12. A further increase in the license fee had the effect of raising the retail price and contributed to reduce consumption.

Opium.

510. The consumption of opium in the Presidency increased by 29 maunds 8 seers, and the total revenue by Rs. 1,15,016. Consumption showed a decrease in only six districts ; but, while the revenue for the whole of the Presidency increased by 5 per cent., the total consumption rose by only 1·7 per cent. Measures have been taken to carry out the recommendations of the International Opium Commission of Shanghai. One hundred and twenty-six shops were abolished in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, and the limit of retail sale has been reduced from 5 tolas to 3 tolas. The hours of sale have been restricted from sunrise to sunset in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions and in the district of Darjeeling.

Cocaine.

511. The imports of cocaine into the Presidency continued to be a source of great anxiety. Licit imports of this drug were under strict control ; but notwithstanding the vigilance exercised by the Preventive officers of the Customs, Excise, and Police Departments, smuggling was very prevalent, and large quantities of this drug passed in undetected. Seven hundred and forty-eight persons were convicted of the illicit possession and sale of cocaine, and in Calcutta alone 5,438 ounces were seized. There was a distinct improvement in the severity of sentences imposed in such cases, but the maximum punishment provided for such offences in the present Excise Act is undoubtedly light.

Excise offences.

512. The total number of persons arrested during the year was 3,401 as compared with 2,904 in the previous year. Three thousand and sixteen persons were convicted, against 2,564 in the preceding year. On the whole the sentences passed by Magistrates in important cases under the Opium and Excise laws were adequate, and a satisfactory feature of the year was the increase in the number of sentences of imprisonment.

STAMPS

[Annual Statistics of the Stamp Department, 1912 13. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Revenue.

513. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court Fees Acts rose from Rs. 2,01,10,524 to Rs. 2,09,13,602, showing an increase of Rs. 8,03,078, or 3·9 per cent. The increase, which occurred both in judicial and non-judicial stamps, is attributed to the favourable condition of trade, especially in jute and tea. The total charges during the year amounted to Rs. 5,54,816 against Rs. 5,22,025 in the previous year.

Judicial Stamps.

514. The sale-proceeds from court-fee stamps, excluding stamps for copies and plain paper used with court-fee labels, amounted to Rs. 1,32,27,346 against Rs. 1,31,99,993, an increase of Rs. 27,353 only. Increases occurred in

all the districts of the Burdwan Division except Birbhum, in the 24-Parganas and Jessore districts in the Presidency Division, in the district of Malda in the Rajshahi Division, in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh in the Dacca Division, and in Chittagong in the Chittagong Division, while decreases occurred in the rest of the Province. The increase in Midnapore (Rs. 24,565) was remarkable, and was attributed to the increase in the institution of civil suits in relation to settlement cases. The increases noticeable in Hooghly (Rs. 14,816) and Bankura (Rs. 14,110) were due to the filing of probate cases in some big estates and to the institution of civil suits of higher values. The increase in Dacca (Rs. 35,629) was due to the increase in the valuation of suits in civil courts, and also to the fact that certificates and letters of administration were granted in respect of some large estates. Settlement operations and increased valuation in probate cases contributed to the increase of Rs. 39,095 in Mymensingh.

Non-judicial Stamps.

515. The receipts from the sale of non-judicial stamps rose from Rs. 59,58,305 in 1911-12 to Rs. 67,17,602, showing an increase of Rs. 7,59,297. Of this as much as Rs. 4,79,747 was for Calcutta alone and is attributed to improvement in trade. In the Dacca Division there was an increase of Rs. 1,34,791, which is attributed to the growth of population and the expansion of business—both agricultural and non-agricultural. The other districts which showed the greatest increases were Burdwan (Rs. 13,696), Midnapore (Rs. 12,050), Pabna (Rs. 12,978), and Jessore (Rs. 11,326). The increases in the Burdwan and Midnapore districts are said to be due to the increase in the number of registered deeds.

Sale of stamps.

516. The number of vendors who held licenses to sell stamps during the year was 4,869, against 4,845 in 1911-12 ; and the amount of discount allowed to such vendors rose from Rs. 3,16,535 to Rs. 3,37,717.

Deficient duty.

517. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by the courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 during the year fell from 2,840 to 2,607, and the amount of duty and penalty realized from Rs. 17,201 to Rs. 15,452. The total number of cases decided by revenue courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act decreased from 3,195 to 3,074 ; but the duty and penalty realized increased from Rs. 48,223 to Rs. 58,703.

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

518. The number of cases instituted for the infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 1,313, in which 1,395 persons were brought to trial and 1,355 convicted, as against 1,812 cases and 1,866 convicted in the previous year. The fines imposed, including composition money, amounted to Rs. 7,116, as against Rs. 7,279 in 1911-12. The amount of rewards paid to informers was Rs. 3,480, against Rs. 4,112 in the previous year. It is reported that the people now take greater precautions that deeds are properly registered.

Working of Section 19 H of the Court Fees Act.

519. Enquiries were made in 92 per cent. of the cases of valuation of estates for the issue of probates or letters of administration reported during the year. The corresponding percentage of the previous year was 75·5. The proportion borne by the deficient court-fees realized to the amount originally paid was 10·1, as compared with 5·4 in the previous year.

INCOME-TAX.

[Statistical information regarding the Income-tax Department for 1912-13. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Financial Records.

520. The receipts and charges and net revenue under the head, Income-tax, were Rs. 55,69,285, Rs. 1,68,579 and Rs. 53,99,706, respectively. The net revenue showed an increase of 4·3 per cent. as compared with an increase of 3·8 per cent. in 1911-12.

Collections.

521. The total collections on account of this tax during the year showed an increase of Rs. 2,41,318, or 4·7 per cent. in comparison with the previous year. The increase was obtained under all parts. Part I (salaries, pensions, annuities and gratuities) contributing Rs. 37,127, Part II (profits of companies) Rs. 35,464, Part III (securities) Rs. 4,641 and Part IV (other sources) Rs. 1,64,086. Of the total increase, Calcutta contributed Rs. 1,78,211.

Assessment.

522. The total number of assessees in the lowest class (that is, those who were assessed on an income of Rs. 1,000, but less than Rs. 1,250) was

11,888, against 11,226 of the previous year, showing an increase of 5·9 per cent. The final number of assessees showed an increase of 2,288, or 4·7 per cent. and the final demand Rs. 2,85,574, or 6 per cent. In Calcutta, there was an increase of Rs. 2,02,768, or 6·2 per cent. Outside Calcutta there was a marked increase in each of the districts of Rangpur and Darjeeling where the revenue rose from Rs. 56,178 and Rs. 59,081 in 1911-12 to Rs. 72,268 and Rs. 66,951 in 1912-13, respectively, owing chiefly to the enhancement of old assessments and the discovery of new assessees as a result of careful revision.

Forest Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Forests.]

C.—Revenue and Finance other than Imperial.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

523. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial Services for 1912-13 as compared with those of 1911-12 :— **Receipts and Expenditure.**

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

RECEIPTS.	ACTUALS.		EXPENDITURE.	ACTUALS.	
	1911-12.	1912-13.		1911-12.	1912-13.
Principal Heads of Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Direct demand on the revenues—	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue { Proper	2,54,42	3,07,13	1. Refunds and Drawbacks	1,55	1,44
I.—Land Revenue { Adjustments	...	...	2. Assignments and Compensations	38	51
IV.—Stamp	1,00,56	1,03,73	3. Land Revenue	35,09	33,48
V.—Excise	1,00,41	1,37,59	6. Stamps	3,22	3,54
VI.—Provincial Rates	31,75	32,02	7. Excise	4,74	5,98
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	26,73	27,76	8. Provincial Rates	50	39
IX.—Forests	13,87	16,01	10. Assessed Taxes	78	76
X.—Registration	17,34	18,23	11. Forests	7,06	6,61
			12. Registration	10,67	10,51
Total	5,45,08	6,42,47	Total	63,99	63,22
XII.—Interest	5,22	5,01	13. Interest on ordinary debt	5,10	4,64
Receipts by Civil Department—			Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department—		
			18. General Administration	37,35	25,41
XVI.—Law and Justice { Courts of Law.	7,61	8,15	19. Law and Justice { Courts of Law	1,01,45	96,43
XVI.—Law and Justice { Jails	8,31	7,03	19. Law and Justice { Jails	20,51	19,62
XVII.—Police	1,88	2,39	20. Police	87,08	83,60
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	16,95	17,52	21. Ports and Pilotage	13,28	12,13
XIX.—Education	7,33	7,65	22. Education	61,22	73,59
XX.—Medical	3,63	4,27	24. Medical	26,15	26,42
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	2,37	2,18	25. Political	23	39
			26. Scientific and other Minor Departments.	14,81	16,62
Total	48,08	49,19	Total	3,62,03	3,54,21
			Miscellaneous—		
Miscellaneous—			29. Superannuation, etc.	27,86	29,26
			30. Stationery and Printing	15,79	13,34
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	43	48	32. Miscellaneous	5,60	4,25
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	1,30	1,20	Total	49,25	46,85
XXV.—Miscellaneous	6,35	7,72			
Total	8,08	9,40	Famine Relief and Insurance—		
			33. Famine Relief	...	...
			36. Reduction or Avoidance of debt	2,60	60
Irrigation—			Railways (Revenue Account)—		
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts)	1,39	1,37	40. Subsidized Companies—Land, etc.	...	...
			Total	2,60	60
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—			Irrigation—		
By Public Works Department.	3,36	3,20	42. Major Works—		
„ Civil Department	25	25	Working Expenses	1,38	1,17
			Interest on debt	1,70	1,76
Total	5,00	4,82	43. Minor Works and Navigation—		
			By Public Works Department	7,84	7,67
			„ Civil Department	2	1
Buildings and Roads—			Total	10,94	10,61
XXXII.—Civil Works—			Buildings and Roads—		
By Public Works Department.	4,62	3,83	45. Civil Works—		
„ Civil Department	1,55	1,43	By Public Works Department	61,52	63,18
			„ Civil Department	30,28	26,77
Total	6,17	5,26	Total	91,80	89,95
Total Receipts	6,17,63	7,16,15	Total Charges	5,85,76	5,70,08

Variations : (a) Receipts.

524. The increase under *Land Revenue* was due to increased collections from Government estates and to the provision, under Adjustments, for special expenditure on Education and Sanitation and for a non-recurring assignment towards discretionary grants. The variations under the heads *Stamps, Excise and Assessed Taxes* have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Provincial Rates* followed in part from improved collections of Public Works cess. The increase under *Forests* was due to large sales of timber in several divisions, and that under *Registration* to special receipts from settlement operations. The decrease under *Interest* may be referred to the gradual repayments of agricultural loans and the reduction of his outstanding balance by the Maharaja Sir Prodyat Kumar Tagore, which led to smaller payments under classes I and III of the Provincial Loans account. Larger magisterial fines and the realising of court-fees in cash accounted for the increase under *Courts of Law*. The receipts of 1911-12 under *Jails* included the extraordinary proceeds from the supply of tents, etc., for the Coronation Durbar at Delhi. The increase under *Police* arose from larger recoveries for the additional police necessitated by the unrest in Jessore, and that under *Ports and Pilotage* was due to commercial activity. The growth of the number of pupils at high schools for boys (including collegiate schools) and at Government colleges in general produced the increase under *Education*. That under *Medical* was due chiefly to a special contribution of Rs. 50,000 from the Indian Research Fund Association for carrying out experiments in jungle-clearing in suitable localities and partly to fees from the increased number of students attending the new sixth-year course in the Medical College. Smaller demands for sulphate of quinine from the Punjab led to the decrease under *Scientific and other Minor Departments*, while that under *Stationery and Printing* reflected a falling off of miscellaneous receipts. Heavy lapses of unclaimed deposits especially in the 24-Parganas explained the increase under *Miscellaneous*. Railway competition caused a reduction of receipts from shipping on the Hijili Tidal Canal and hence there was a slight decrease under *Irrigation—Major Works. Minor Works and Navigation* showed a decrease because the silting up of the entrance to the Manickdah channel blocked steamer traffic upon the Madaripur Bhil route. The figures under *Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers* contrast unfavourably with those of 1911-12 because the latter were swollen by the recovery of arrears. Similarly the receipts of 1911-12 under *Civil Works in charge of Public Works Department* included not only arrears of Strand Bank rent but also the receipts from the sale of stalls in the Maidan during the King Emperor's visit. This year, moreover, there was less recovered from rent of buildings because the territorial changes left several buildings in Dacca vacant.

(b) Expenditure.

525. The decrease under *Refunds and Drawbacks* was due to the fact that exceptionally large payments had been made in 1911-12 under Land Revenue, while the increase under *Assignments and Compensations* was due to fluctuations in *malikana* payments in Midnapore. The decrease under *Land Revenue* was due partly to smaller expenditure on improvements in Government estates, and partly to smaller payments for grain compensation allowance and for arrears of pay. Moreover, in 1911-12 the Royal bonus enhanced expenditure. The increase under *Stamps* is accounted for partly by larger orders for stamp paper from the Central Stores, and partly by heavy payments of discount on the sale of general stamps, following on the growth of the revenue. The *Excise* Department showed increased expenditure because all charges under this head had, from the 1st April 1912, to be met from the Provincial funds. Slow progress in the work of valuation and revaluation explains the decrease under *Provincial Rates*. The expenditure of the *Forest* Department for 1911-12 exceeded that of the year under discussion, because it included the salary of the Conservator of Forests for Eastern Bengal ; and similarly the charges of the *Registration* Department for 1911-12 included supervision charges of the Eastern Bengal districts. The decrease under *Interest* represented smaller outstanding balances of the Provincial Loan Accounts. The actual charges for *General Administration* in 1911-12 included charges on account of Secretariat offices in Eastern Bengal as well as those necessitated by the Royal visit ;

and in like manner those under *Courts of Law* covered the salaries of Eastern Bengal Law Officers and special law charges in Midnapore and Dacca. These charges did not recur in the year under consideration nor were the payments of arrear-salaries of ministerial officers so large. The decrease under *Jails* resulted from smaller purchases of raw materials for manufactures being necessary, and that under *Police* again marked a return to normal conditions after the reorganization of the provinces and the Royal visit. The decrease under *Ports and Pilotage* is explained by adjustments under Marine Establishment in the Office of the Agent, Government Consignments. Under *Education* there was an increase owing to a non-recurring grant of Rs. 4 lakhs and a recurring grant of Rs. 65,000 to the Calcutta University sanctioned by the Government of India, to a grant of Rs. 40,000 for the education of the domiciled community, and to special assignments for popular and secondary education and hostels. Under *Medical* the increase was for larger grants to hospitals and dispensaries and for improving the pay of Assistant Surgeons and others. The increase under *Political* was due to larger expenditure on Durbar presents. That under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was due to large purchases of cinchona bark for a quinine reserve, towards which an Imperial grant of Rs. 3 lakhs was received. The increase under *Superannuation* followed upon the annual growth of expenditure under *Pensions*. The introduction of the book credit system made it unnecessary to procure so much stationery from the Central Stores as in former years. The economy thus effected, and the decreased expenditure on printing, consequent upon the abolition of the Dacca Secretariat Press, explain the decrease under *Stationery and Printing*. The transfer of the Equilibrium Grant to the head Education instead of *Miscellaneous* accounts for the apparent decrease under the latter head. Moreover, the special payment to the *Sulov Samachar* was stopped. Rupees 60,000 was the sum at which the *Famine Insurance* grant for the new province of Bengal was fixed. Under *Irrigation—Major Works—Working Expenses* the new system of allocation led to a decrease for establishment. The expenditure under *Interest on Debt* was enhanced by the raising of the rate of interest from 3·401 to 3·500 per cent. The decrease under *Irrigation—Minor Works in charge of Civil Officers* was due to the closing of the accounts for the Howrah and Rajapur Drainage, and that under *Minor Works in charge of the Public Works Department* to the new system of allocation under Establishment, and to less dredging being necessary on the Madaripur Bhil route. The decrease under *Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers* was due to smaller expenditure on sanitary improvements and smaller payments to the Chittagong Port Fund, while the increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Officers* represents larger expenditure on educational buildings out of the Imperial non-recurring assignments.

Local Funds.

[Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1912-13.]

526. The following statement shows the income and expenditure and the opening and closing balances of the different Local Funds in the Province for the year 1912-13 :— **Balances.**

Name of fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	23,46,639	71,70,761	95,17,400	65,46,039	29,71,361
District Road Fund (Darjeeling)	23,169	64,972	88,141	56,804	31,337
Cantonment Funds—					
Alipore	1,029	4,247	5,276	4,030	1,246
Barrackpore	10,613	51,276	61,889	53,260	8,629
Dum-Dum	6,439	26,111	32,550	22,681	9,869
Jalapahar	563	6,877	7,440	7,278	162
Lebong	—1	6,530	6,529	6,387	142
Takdah	...	18,653	18,653	17,465	1,188
Buxa Duars	301	1,265	1,566	1,188	378
Total ...	18,944	1,14,959	1,33,903	1,12,289	21,614

Name of fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cantonment Hospital Funds—					
Barrackpore	70	3,900	3,970	3,921	49
Dum-Dum	2	1,117	1,119	1,118	1
Jalapahar	125	688	813	688	125
Total ...	197	5,705	5,902	5,727	175
Town and Bazar Funds—					
Chittagong Hill Tracts Bazar	6,213	8,210	14,423	5,316	9,107
Jalpaiguri Western Duars Market.	15,814	35,732	51,546	24,656	26,890
Total ...	22,027	43,942	65,969	29,972	35,997
Police Funds—					
District Chowkidari Reward	1,04,777	63,215	1,67,992	50,605	1,17,387
Foundling Asylum ...	15	3,419	3,434	3,417	17
Fire Brigade	82,402	1,72,254	2,54,656	2,10,923	43,733
Total ...	1,87,194	2,38,888	4,26,082	2,64,945	1,61,137
Marine Funds—					
Hospital Port Dues (Calcutta)	11,464	86,134	97,598	1,08,505	—10,907
Ditto (Chittagong)	1,089	6,660	7,749	5,848	1,901
Chittagong Port Fund ...	1,66,325	3,50,404	5,16,729	4,47,011	69,718
Total ...	1,78,878	4,43,198	6,22,076	5,61,364	60,712
Education Funds—					
Hindu College ...	2,540	4,752	7,292	2,335	4,957
Durga Charan Laha's ...	...	2,743	2,743	2,743	...
Total ...	2,540	7,495	10,035	5,078	4,957
Medical and Charitable Funds—					
Pilgrims' Lodging-house ...	17,266	7,200	24,466	6,682	17,784
Bengal Famine Orphan ...	2,949	1,222	4,171	...	4,171
Ram Lal Mukherjee's Endowment.	6,395	1,750	8,145	...	8,145
Joy Gobind Laha's ...	19,387	4,140	23,527	...	23,527
Imambara Hospital ...	3,623	24,213	27,836	22,467	5,369
Chittagong General Hospital	9,940	24,117	34,057	21,327	12,730
Total ...	59,560	62,642	1,22,202	50,476	71,726
Public Works Fund—					
Darjeeling Improvement ...	45,498	1,01,533	1,47,031	99,617	47,414
Miscellaneous Fund—					
Steam Boiler Inspection ...	21,115	81,227	1,02,342	64,028	38,314
Zoological Garden ...	6,998	86,978	93,976	84,079	9,897
Moshin Endowment ...	10,022	1,33,704	1,43,726	1,37,240	6,486
Christian Burial Board ...	14,068	20,542	34,610	31,205	3,405
Muhammadan Burial Board	584	1,900	2,484	1,784	700
Total	52,787	3,24,351	3,77,138	3,18,336	58,802
GRAND TOTAL ...	29,37,433	85,78,446	1,15,15,879	80,50,647	34,63,232

Grants.

527. The new Takdah Cantonment Fund in the district of Darjeeling started in August 1912 with a grant of Rs. 17,620 from the Military Department. Grants were also made by the Military Department to the Cantonment Funds of the Buxa Duars (Rs. 1,044), of Lebong (Rs. 2,863), and of Jalapahar (Rs. 4,543). The deficit closing balance of the Hospital Port Dues Fund, Calcutta (Rs. 10,907), was made up by the sale of investments of the value of Rs. 30,000. The Durga Charan Laha's Fund received a grant of Rs. 970. The Mohsin Fund received a contribution of Rs. 18,000 towards expenditure on madrassas in Eastern Bengal.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Land Revenue Administration Report of Bengal for the year 1912-13.]

Rate.

528. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Act is not in force, road and public works cesses continued to be levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the annual value of lands and annual net profits of mines and other immoveable properties.

Demand and collection.

529. The current demand of land revenue for the cess-paying districts was Rs. 2,70,88,077, or 24·07 per cent. of the annual valuation, or gross rental (Rs. 11,25,27,244). The total demand of both cesses was Rs. 61,35,658 including Rs. 8,32,484 of arrears, and the total collections Rs. 62,25,621. Decreases in some districts more than counterbalanced increases in others, and the demand as a whole fell short of that of the previous year by Rs. 82,008. The most important decrease was in Burdwan (Rs. 83,870) due chiefly to the revision of the assessment of coal mines under section 72 of the Act, and partly to the transfer of estates to other districts. Although the decrease in the current demand led to a decrease of Rs. 83,035 in collections, the provincial percentage (101·4) was as high as in the previous year, and the percentage of balance outstanding fell from 12·5 to 10·8. In 19 districts collections attained or exceeded the prescribed standard of 100 per cent. on the current demand. No arrears of cess became barred by limitation in any district.

Working of the certificate procedure.

530. The number of certificates filed for the recovery of cess arrears was 54,191, as against 54,477 in the previous year. There was a marked increase in the cases instituted in Chittagong (2,702), Nadia (1,675), and Tippera (700), owing to the vigorous steps taken for the realization of arrears, and in Tippera to the recovery of arrears from rent-free lands included in the parent estates during the present revaluation. But there was a noticeable decrease in Midnapore (2,564), through the amalgamation of cess *tauzi* accounts in respect of revenue-paying estates with the local revenue *tauzi* accounts. Including 14,938 certificates pending from the previous year, the total number for disposal in the Presidency amounted to 69,129. Of these, 53,340 were disposed of, leaving 15,789 pending, of which 1,100 were for over six months. Arrears were recovered in 12,673 cases on the mere issue of preliminary notices under the Certificate Act, in 24,390 cases after notices for the attachment of property, and in only 863 cases by actual sale.

Valuation and revaluation.

531. There were valuations or revaluations in 16 districts. In Midnapore, Faridpur and Jalpaiguri the work is being carried on by the Settlement Department simultaneously with the general settlement proceedings. A special inquiry was held into the recent revaluation of the Bakarganj district, which was found to have been done so badly that the proceedings were set aside by the Board, and a Deputy Collector was appointed to check and revise them. The general revaluation in Bogra was completed and fresh proceedings instituted in Khulna and Dinajpur.

Legislation.

532. The proposal to surrender to District Boards the Local Government's share in the proceeds of the public works cess was sanctioned and the necessary amendments of the Cess Act are now under the consideration of Government.

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III of this Report—Municipal Administration.]

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CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[The Reports of the Sanitary Commissioner and the Sanitary Board, Bengal, for the year 1912. Statistics of British India—Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Climatic conditions.

533. In the early part of the year there was an abnormally low rainfall, and, except in April, most districts suffered from the want of rain. With the advent of the monsoon conditions changed, and the fall though erratic was more or less above the average in most districts.

Births and deaths.

534. The birth-rate showed an increase, 1,600,335 births being registered during the year as compared with 1,585,187 in 1911. There was also a rise in mortality, 1,349,779 deaths being recorded as against 1,221,580 in the former year. Fever and cholera were primarily responsible for this increase. With a birth-rate of 35·30 per mille and a death-rate of 29·77 the Presidency of Bengal as now constituted does not compare unfavourably with other provinces of the Empire. If the birth-rate is somewhat lower than that of most other provinces, the death-rate is also lower, and the excess of births over deaths is considerable. The statistics for the various divisions of the province point to Chittagong as being the healthiest Division The birth-rate was higher in the Eastern Bengal Divisions of the province than in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions ; but the Rajshahi Division, which showed the highest birth-rate in the province, also returned the highest death-rate. A disquieting feature was the high rate of infantile mortality in certain districts. Hitherto Calcutta had returned the highest death-rate among infants, but it has now given place to the Jalpaiguri and Dinajpur districts, where the rate has risen as high as 28·69 and 26·26, per mille respectively.

Fever.

535. Fever continued to be the disease most responsible for the mortality of the province ; and, despite the measures taken to prevent the spread of malaria, there was a rise in the mortality from this disease during the year. As many as 959,193 deaths were attributable to fever. Malda, Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri had the worst record ; but, while in the two latter there was but a small departure from the average of the previous five years, in Malda the mortality rose from an average 25 per 1,000 to the high figure of 35·83. This would seem to indicate that the measures taken for the free distribution of quinine have proved ineffective. This district alone accounted for one-sixth of the increase in the number of deaths from fever in the Presidency. In the town of Malda itself the death-rate from fever rose from 29·33 to 41·60.

The various anti-malarial measures that have been undertaken throughout the province have not yet produced any real permanent advantage, and those in many places have been discontinued. The clearance of jungle and tanks and the destruction of mosquitos have not proved successful, and a more extended use of quinine seems, on present knowledge, the only method by which it is possible to reduce the rate of mortality and the risk of infection. Major Fry and Dr. Bentley continued their malaria investigations, the former principally in the malarious districts of Jessore, Nadia and Murshidabad, the latter in Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Dacca and Faridpur. Several Sub-Assistant Surgeons were employed in distributing quinine gratis in various districts during the fever season. There was a large increase in the sale of quinine by the Jail Department. Arrangements have been made by which this department will prepare the quinine "treatments" hitherto obtained from a firm in England.

Provincial Malaria Committee.

536. The Malaria Committee devoted itself during the year primarily to a consideration of the measures to be taken to render quinine more popular and to bring it into more general notice. Detailed arrangements have been made and are now in force.

537. Cholera was prevalent in every district except Darjeeling, and the mortality from it (95,467) considerably exceeded that of 1911-12 (67,750). The increase was largely due to the water-supply becoming scanty and contaminated owing to the deficient monsoon of 1911, and to the want of rainfall in the early part of 1912. Wells were disinfected with permanganate of potash in several districts with successful results. **Cholera.**

538. The total number of deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa was 27,335; this is slightly above the average; last year only 22,246 persons died of these diseases. The death-rate was highest in the Burdwan Division and the Howrah district, and was larger in towns than in rural areas. **Dysentery and Diarrhœa.**

539. The total number of deaths under this head amounted to 17,142 against 17,520 in the previous year. Out of these 17,142 deaths, suicide accounted for 2,867, wounds and accidents for 9,195, and snake-bites and wild animals for 5,080. **Injury.**

540. The enquiries into births and deaths made by the Vaccination staff indicated very defective registration of vital statistics, and the improvement noticed in previous years was not continued. The omissions in the districts of the Rajshahi Division were unusually large, while the results in Khulna remained far from satisfactory. The system of registration by the police in towns was unsatisfactory and the work was retransferred to the municipal authorities with effect from the 1st April 1913. **Verification of vital statistics.**

Plague.

541. There were altogether 1,995 deaths from this cause during 1912 against 1,879 in the previous year. The disease was practically confined to Calcutta and some of its suburbs, where nearly 96 per cent. of the total deaths were recorded, 1,831 of the victims (2·04 per mille against 1·93) belonging to Calcutta, 37 to Howrah town and 37 to the Maniktala and Cossipore-Chitpur Municipalities. Of the remaining 90 deaths, 65 occurred in towns, chiefly in Burdwan, and 25 in rural areas. In the case of Burdwan town the mortality was due to a sharp localized outbreak, which prevailed from the beginning of February to the end of April. Of the deaths in rural areas, 9 occurred in the Howrah district, 8 in Burdwan, 3 in Bankura, 2 in Hooghly and 1 each in Midnapore, Dacca and Faridpur. As usual the intensity of the disease was highest from February to May, during which months 1,674 deaths were registered; while the smallest number of deaths took place during September and October.

542. In Calcutta 52 persons were inoculated with anti-plague serum and 120,942 live and 49,009 dead rats were properly disposed of. Nowhere else was resort had to these precautions. In Burdwan town measures to combat the disease were limited to the cleansing of the town and to disinfection of affected houses and of some of the drains. Many people left the town, particularly those living in the infected quarters. **Plague preventive measures.**

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[The Annual Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies during the year 1912. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

543. The most important event of the year was the discontinuance of the emigration of indentured coolies from India to the Colony of Mauritius. The illegal despatch of certain Muhammadans from Calcutta to work as tailors in Bangkok (Siam) having been brought to the notice of Government, a prosecution under section 97 (*d*) of the Indian Emigration Act was instituted and resulted in the conviction of the recruiter. It is reported that no further cases of such illegal recruitment have taken place. **Administrative measures.**

Working of Emigration Agencies and despatch of emigrants.

544. There were again five emigration agencies in Calcutta, but only four worked on behalf of British Colonies, the fifth being employed by the Dutch Colony of Surinam. The total number of labourers requisitioned was 10,447 as against 9,706 in the previous year; and 8,227 were supplied as against 8,861. The deficiency in the case of Jamaica was practically made up by the despatch of 512 statute adults shortly after the close of the year, while the shortage of 1,600 shown in the case of Fiji is more apparent than real, since the requisition for that colony was met chiefly from the Madras Presidency. Surinam alone failed to secure the number of coolies required.

Recruitment and registration of emigrants.

545. The number of licenses issued to recruiters was 1,065 as compared with 724 in 1911. Fifty-four licenses were cancelled for various causes as against 22 in the previous year. Twenty-nine of these were licenses granted in 1911. Operations were conducted in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces, Ajmere, the Central Provinces and the Punjab, the largest number of emigrants, nearly 75 per cent., coming as usual from the United Provinces. The total number of emigrants registered was 11,698 as compared with 12,716 last year. The decrease is due to the fact that Fiji recruited about two-thirds of her labourers from Madras instead of shipping them through Calcutta. Nine hundred and fifty five coolies were rejected as unfit, 47 deserted and 54 were released from their engagements. The deductions on these accounts amounted to 10·14 per cent. as against 11·61 in the previous year. Of the persons who actually embarked 4·71 per cent. were returned emigrants who volunteered for registration. The largest number of emigrants (2,637) again went to Trinidad, 2,392 to Demerara and 1,457 to Jamaica.

Sanitary arrangements in Depôts.

546. The sanitary arrangements at the depôts continued to be highly efficient as is shown by the decrease in the percentages of deaths and sickness from ·31 and 7·43 to ·22 and 6·11 per cent., respectively. There were no cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis in the British Guiana Emigration Depôt, and it was therefore decided that the segregation hospital established in 1911 for the open-air treatment of the disease should be maintained experimentally for another year. Cases of this disease, however, decreased from 29 with 17 deaths in 1911 to 12 cases with 10 deaths.

Returned emigrants and their savings.

547. During the year 2,111 emigrants returned with savings aggregating Rs. 4,11,165, an average of Rs. 194-12-4 per head as compared with Rs. 156-5-3 in 1911. Of the 236 emigrants who returned from Mauritius only 50 paid for their passages. None of them, however, declared any savings on arrival at Calcutta, and the remaining 186 emigrants are reported to have been paupers. The average remittances to India by resident immigrants showed little variation from the figures of the previous year. Natal's total (nearly Rs. 11 lakhs) again far exceeded the sums remitted from other colonies, but probably included remittances by traders and other non-labourers. Two hundred and ninety-six estates of deceased emigrants, valued at Rs. 24,425, were administered by Government during the year. Of these the heirs of 181 were traced, 64 lapsed to the Colonial and Indian Governments, and the cases of the rest were under inquiry.

INLAND EMIGRATION.

[The reports on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901), for the year ending the 30th June 1913.]

Administrative measures.

548. No administrative measure of importance was introduced.

Recruitment and number of emigrants.

549. The number of emigrants of all classes recruited in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Madras, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces, who embarked at Goalundo during the year, was 53,253 as against 53,577 in the preceding year. Of these 43,085 were recruited by garden-sardars under the control of approved associations, 1,744 by garden-sardars working under Chapter IV of the Act, and 3,291 by licensed recruiters, as compared with 40,666, 3,760 and 4,319, respectively, in the previous year. The number

of emigrants from Native States, however, rose from 4,789 in 1911-12 to 5,133 in 1912-13. The steady increase during the last few years in the number of emigrants from Native States has attracted the attention of Government, and there is reason to believe that some residents of districts in British India are sent to Assam in contravention of the provisions of the Emigration Act on the plea that they come from Native States to which the Act does not apply. The question of undertaking legislation to prevent this abuse is under the consideration of the Government of India.

Recruiting operations were conducted only in the districts of Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan, Midnapore and the 24-Parganas. The total number of emigrants registered in these districts under Chapters III and IV of the Act was 892 and 314, respectively, as against 1,699 and 1,001 in the preceding year. All the labourers recruited by garden-sardars under Chapter IV of the Act were put on contract, but 44 emigrants recruited by licensed contractors for the Surma Valley Districts were forwarded without contract. One thousand three hundred and ninety-seven unindentured emigrants were recruited by garden-sardars accredited to the local agents of approved associations as against 1,303 in the year 1911-12. Generally the work of these local agents was satisfactory, but unfavourable reports as to the conduct of some of those employed by individual employers and firms were received, and there is reason to suspect that the success of these private local agents is largely due to the employment of unlicensed recruiters.

Recruiting Agencies.

550. During the year under report only three licensed contractors worked in this province as against 10 in the previous year. The total number of recruiters licensed on their behalf was 52, or 24 less than in the year 1911-12. The licenses of eight recruiters were, however, subsequently cancelled for irregularities and misconduct. Of the 1,027 garden-sardars in this province, 52 worked under the ordinary procedure of Chapter IV of the Act and 975 under the control of approved associations.

Criminal cases.

551. The number of criminal cases in connection with recruitment was 36 as against 35 in the previous year, and the number of persons convicted was 25 as against 17 in the year 1911-12. The reports show increased vigilance on the part of registering and other officers.

Condition of depôts and rest-houses.

552. The depôts, places of accommodation and rest-houses for emigrants were properly inspected and maintained in good sanitary condition. No outbreak of epidemic disease was reported. There was no death among the 3,297 emigrants recruited under Chapter III of the Act during their journey to Goalundo, and only one out of the 3,291 emigrants who embarked died on the voyage. Among the sardari emigrants, of whom 44,836 arrived at Goalundo, 4 deaths were reported during their transit to that place, and only 2 deaths occurred on steamers among the 44,829 who travelled to the labour districts, while among the 35,565 emigrants who passed through Chandpur there was only one death.

Repatriation.

553. Two hundred and seventy-four emigrants were repatriated from the labour districts through Goalundo, as well as 38 coolies who refused to embark at Goalundo on their way to the labour districts.

Medical Relief.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[Report on the working of the Charitable Dispensaries and Hospitals in Bengal for the year 1912.—Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Number of Patients.

554. There was no change in the number or classification of the hospitals and dispensaries in Calcutta. The number of beds available was the same as in the previous year, viz., 1,824, and the daily average of in-patients was 1,380 against 1,336. In the Eden Hospital the daily average was slightly in excess of its capacity. A new ward with 8 to 10 beds for the exclusive use of sick children was constructed in this hospital, out of funds provided from the legacy of the late Srimati Nistarini Dasi of Calcutta. The

accommodation of the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital was raised 40 per cent. by the completion of the new surgical block. The in-patients treated out-numbered those of the previous year by 2,477, and the out-patients by 8,692. The total number of patients treated amounted to 350,841, of whom 31,460 were in-patients.

Diseases treated.

555. The patients treated for malarial fever, cholera, and dysentery or diarrhœa numbered 30,947, 844 and 16,231, respectively, against 30,797, 836 and 16,968 in 1911. The mortality among in-patients was less than that in the previous year. Cases of venereal disease, enteric fever and small-pox increased slightly, from 14,620, 254 and 32, respectively, in 1911 to 16,888, 317 and 67 in the year under report. Fewer patients were treated for tubercle of the lung; they numbered only 1,792 as compared with 2,128 in the preceding year. The total number of operations performed in all the hospitals at the Presidency head-quarters rose from 34,307 to 36,113.

Finance.

556 The total expenditure excluding invested capital amounted to Rs. 12,25,420 against Rs. 11,55,431 in 1911. The construction and equipment of the new surgical block of the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital was partly responsible for the increased expenditure. The only investment made was one of Rs. 27,000 given by the executors of the estate of the late Srimati Nistarini Dasi for the maintenance of a children's ward in the Eden Hospital.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

Number of dispensaries.

557. On the redistribution of provinces 331 dispensaries were transferred to the new province of Bihar and Orissa and 268 left in Bengal. At the same time 336 dispensaries were added from Eastern Bengal, making a total of 604 in the new Presidency of Bengal. Nineteen new dispensaries were opened during the year under report, but for various reasons seven were excluded from the list. The total number of dispensaries which remained open at the close of the year was 616, which was 17 more than the number existing in old Bengal in 1911.

Number of patients.

558. In these 616 institutions medical relief was afforded to 5,108,787 persons (viz., 53,890 in-door and 5,054,897 out-door patients); in 1911, 4,775,037 patients (viz., 49,428 in-door and 4,725,609 out-door) were treated in 604 dispensaries in the area which now constitutes this Presidency. There was thus an increase of 333,750, attributable partly to the unhealthiness of the year and partly to the growing popularity of the dispensaries. Medical treatment was also given by travelling medical officers on the Eastern Bengal State Railway and in the Darjeeling Terai, by Sub-Assistant Surgeons employed on special malaria duty, at the floating and temporary fever hospitals in the Burdwan district, and at mission dispensaries. About 188,792 patients benefited by these institutions.

Diseases treated.

559. The death-rate among the in-patients (35,056) treated at dispensaries in classes I, III and IV was 8·47 per cent. as compared with 8·23 per cent. in 1911. Cases treated for malarial fever increased from 1,065,404 in 1911 to 1,129,709 in 1912; this particular disease was very prevalent and raised the death-rate among the general population from 19·78 to 21·52 per mille. Twenty-four cases of spirillum fever were treated at the infectious ward of the Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling, and four ended fatally. There was a slight increase in the number of patients treated for cholera and small-pox, the figures being 7,646 and 208, respectively, against 5,169 and 124 in 1911. Persons suffering from tubercle of the lung who sought medical relief at the various hospitals and dispensaries numbered 4,283, the number admitted as in-patients being 430, of whom 30·46 per cent. died. Steps have since been taken to provide separate wards at sadar hospitals for the treatment of tubercular patients. The total number of operations performed during the year in all hospitals and dispensaries was 114,174.

Income and expenditure.

560. The total income of Government, local fund and privately aided dispensaries in classes I, III and IV, excluding the opening balance, amounted to Rs. 10,72,136 as compared with Rs. 11,17,119 of the preceding year or

Rs. 44,983 less. The Government contribution formed 17·72 per cent. of the total income. The income from subscriptions and donations showed a decrease of Rs. 13,090. The total expenditure excluding investments amounted to Rs. 9,75,194 against Rs. 9,04,677 in 1911.

561. In the four leper asylums, now in Bengal, viz., Gobra, Raniganj, Asansol and Bankura asylums, 916 leper patients were treated against 719 in the previous years. The first mentioned asylum is maintained entirely by Government, while the other three are missionary enterprises. Steps are being taken by the Mission authorities to amalgamate the Asansol Asylum with the asylum at Raniganj. The total cost of maintenance of all the institutions amounted to Rs. 71,523. **Leper asylums.**

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for the year 1912.]

562. The total number of admissions during the year was 675, the highest figure recorded during the last six years. The numbers of persons admitted to the first, intermediate, second and third classes were 85, 124, 288 and 178 respectively as compared with 56, 126, 178 and 119 in 1911. Thus the intermediate class alone showed no increase. The number of patients treated (506) was also higher than it had been for six years previously. The increased numbers are ascribed to the growing popularity of the institution. **Admission.**

563. The receipts from patients increased slightly, but as in the previous year there was a deficit (of Rs. 2,587) during the year under report. The average daily cost of diet for each patient rose from Re. 1-8-9 to Re. 1-10-6 owing to the increase in the number of first class residents in the sanitarium. **Finance.**

564. Seventeen patients were treated during the year in the "free beds" as against 19 in 1911. The total cost on all free beds amounted to Rs. 1,488. It was decided that the whole donation of Rs. 20,000 given by the late Mr. John White should be invested, and that the interest should be applied to the maintenance of two free beds. One patient benefited under this fund during the year. **Free beds**

Lunatic Asylums.

[Annual returns of the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for the year 1912.—Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population, and Public Health.]

565. The number of lunatic asylums in the Presidency was unchanged, but on the territorial redistribution the Patna Asylum went over to the new province of Bihar and Orissa, and the Dacca Asylum took its place. Following on this there was a revision of the territorial jurisdiction of the three asylums in this Presidency. As the Patna Asylum was not large enough to accommodate all the lunatics from the whole province of Bihar and Orissa, it was arranged between the two Governments that the Berhampore Lunatic Asylum should continue to receive lunatics from such districts of the new province as had previously been allotted to it, till other arrangements could be made by the Government of that province. **Reorganization.**

566. At the beginning of the year, 1,044 lunatics were under confinement in the three asylums. During the year 237 persons were admitted and 28 readmitted: 85 died and 160 were discharged. At the end of the year therefore the number in confinement was 1,064, *i.e.*, 20 in excess of the figures for the preceding year. Of these 47·18 per cent. were criminal lunatics. The daily average of lunatics in confinement was 1,063·43, and the maximum **Population, Admission and Discharge.**

number in any one night was 1,110, of whom 913 were males and 197 females. There was thus considerable overcrowding on the male side since accommodation was provided only for 844 males and 200 females or 1,044 in all. In the Berhampore Asylum sheds were converted into wards and additional accommodation thus provided for 90 lunatics. Steps were also taken to provide additional accommodation in the Bhowanipur Asylum.

Sickness.

567. The year was a comparatively healthy one for the inmates of the lunatic asylums. There were only 487 admissions into hospital against 830 in 1911, and the daily proportion of sick to healthy inmates fell to 7·95 from 8·20 per cent. No cases of small-pox or cholera occurred in the asylums. Cases of fever were much fewer, numbering 109 against 181 for 1911. In the Dacca Asylum there were 52 cases of dysentery against 31 in 1911. Phthisis was responsible for 35 deaths and dysentery for 10, but no deaths resulted from fever or diarrhœa.

Finance.

568. Expenditure on the maintenance of asylums rose from Rs. 1,70,028 to Rs. 1,91,301. The increase was under nearly all heads : the largest excess (Rs. 11,854), under Public Works, was for structural changes at Berhampore to provide increased accommodation. The excess under "diet" (Rs. 5,941) is explained by the larger number of patients and the higher price of food-grains.

Sanitation.

(Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for the year 1912.)

Sanitary works executed in towns and rural areas.

569. The total cost of sanitary works executed during 1911-12 by Municipalities, District Boards, Government, and private individuals amounted to Rs. 12,30,769. The following works were the most important, each costing Rs. 5,000 or more :—

(1) Construction of drains in Howrah (Rs. 41,319), Darjeeling (Rs. 35,177), Baranagore (Rs. 15,904), Bhatpara (Rs. 6,800), Dacca (Rs. 6,787).

(2) Acquisition of land (Rs. 21,108) and pipe-laying (Rs. 30,000) in connection with the Hooghly-Chinsura Water-works.

(3) Pipe-laying and excavation of tanks in connection with the Jessore Water-works scheme (Rs. 63,186).

(4) Extension of the water-works scheme in Khulna (Rs. 19,000).

(5) Construction of the Barisal Water-works (Rs. 1,19,470).

(6) Construction of the new water-supply scheme, Kurseong (Rs. 54,588).

(7) Erection of a reservoir for filtered water in the South Suburban Municipality (Rs. 6,172).

(8) Contribution by the Bakarganj District Board towards the Pirojpur Water-works scheme (Rs. 6,000).

(9) Excavation of two tanks at Ethora in the Burdwan district by the Hon'ble Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi at a cost of Rs. 12,168 and that of one tank in village Nadika, police-station Faridpur, by Babu Aghore Nath Mukherji at Rs. 6,000.

(10) Improvement of the Dacca conservancy tram-line (Rs. 45,495).

(11) In Darjeeling, works in connection with sewage scheme and ropeway (Rs. 92,411), improvement of the Bazar buildings (Rs. 34,980), construction of the slaughter-house (Rs. 6,784) and of the Victoria Bridge (Rs. 7,856).

(12) Construction of the Bradley-Birt Bagala Charan Charitable Dispensary at Pingla, in the Midnapore district, by Babu Bagala Charan Basu of Pingla (Rs. 6,500).

Sanitary improvements.

570. The expenditure by Municipalities upon "Conservancy" and "Water-supply" showed an increase, but that under the head "Drainage" decreased to some extent. The increase under "Water-supply" was common

to all the divisions, while that under head "Conservancy" was confined to the Burdwan, Presidency and Dacca Divisions. The most noticeable increase was in Dacca town, where a sum of Rs. 45,495 was spent on the improvement of the conservancy tram-line. The decrease under "Drainage" was due to larger expenditure in the previous year upon drainage in Howrah, Bhatpara, Baranagar and Khulna. The Patna system of improving village sanitation was continued in only two districts in Bengal, viz., Birbhum and Hooghly. The District Board of Dacca spent Rs. 11,902 on improving the sanitation of the town of Manikganj by clearing tanks and filling up hollows and ditches, while the Midnapore District Board allotted Rs. 1,000 for clearing jungle in thana Daspur in the Ghatal subdivision.

Sanitary Board.

571. In spite of the temporary disorganization caused by the reorganization of the provinces, the year was one of great activity in the Sanitary Engineer's office. Sixteen water-supply schemes were under consideration and 11 in process of execution; 17 drainage schemes were under preparation in the Sanitary Engineer's office, and 8 others were examined or revised, while work was in progress on 9 schemes.

Septic tanks.

572. The septic tank installations in the neighbourhood of Calcutta were carefully inspected by Mr. Dallas. During the year these installations gave excellent results, and in very few cases was it necessary to write to the Mill Managers to remedy any defects. Several new tanks were constructed in place of the old and objectionable hand-removal latrines.

Sanitary and medical precautions at fairs and festivals.

573. The necessary sanitary and medical precautions were taken at all big fairs and religious festivals held during 1912. During the Chait Sankranti, when over 30,000 persons assembled at Tarkeswar, there were five cases of cholera, of which two ended fatally. During the Rash Jatra *melâ* at Santipur, which lasted for three days in November, more than 40,000 people assembled, but there were only two deaths from this disease. In the Bakreshwar *melâ* in the Birbhum district, which lasted for five days, there was only one death. All other fairs in this Presidency were free from any infectious outbreak.

Vaccination.

[Vaccination return for the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1912-13. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Populaton and Public Health.]

Small-pox and vaccination.

574. 1,984,399 operations in all were performed in the Presidency and 1,971,200 persons were vaccinated. There was a decrease of 16,509 in primary vaccinations. This decrease is attributed chiefly to the prevalence of malarial fever during the working season and to the opposition to vaccination of the Farazi Muhammadans of certain districts. Owing to the greater prevalence of small-pox in the districts of Dacca, Chittagong, Mymensingh, and Tippera there were 54,324 more revaccinations than in the previous year. There was also an increase in Midnapore, where the Magistrate took steps to have revaccinated all adults who, though previously treated, could now no longer be considered immune.

There was a slight increase in the mortality from small-pox, but deaths from this disease numbered less than half the average of the preceding five years. The highest mortality was recorded in Mymensingh, Dacca and Tippera; these districts were responsible for 92 per cent. of the deaths amongst children.

The Poisons Act.

[The Report on the working of the Poisons Act, I of 1904, during the year 1912.]

Working of the Poisons Act.

575. The usual steps were taken to make generally known the provisions of the Act. In the Presidency of Bengal, including Calcutta, the total number of licenses issued during the year was 190 under section 2, and 238 under section 4, against 208 and 293, respectively, during

the previous year. Outside Calcutta, where the total number of licenses issued under both the sections amounted to 114 in comparison with 116 in 1911, the largest number of licenses current was in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions as in the previous year. In 8 of the 15 districts of the divisions of Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong, no license at all was issued, and in the remainder, the number of licenses issued was very small, except in the districts of Dacca and Pabna. The class of officers responsible for inspection and supervision under the Act remained unchanged, but no serious irregularities were detected during the year under report. There were in all 10 prosecutions under the Act and 7 convictions followed; in 1911 there were 15 cases and 12 convictions. In Calcutta there was no prosecution.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-1912, PART II, PAGES 264—273.

Education.

[Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for 1912-13. Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Administration.

576. Sanction was received during the year to the creation of an additional appointment in the Indian Educational Service for an Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education in Bengal. At the same time the post of Additional Assistant Director of Public Instruction in the Provincial Educational Service was abolished.

Primary Education.

577. The number of pupils receiving primary education fell by 11,690. The cause assigned for this was the decrease of 513 in the number of Primary schools. Some unaided schools, which had hitherto barely maintained their existence, disappeared for want of help from public funds; others were abandoned because a higher standard was demanded of them without a corresponding rise of pay for the *gurus;* others again were converted into *maktabs.* The total expenditure on primary education increased, but contributions from District Boards and Municipalities were smaller. Out of the Imperial Durbar grant Rs. 2,30,000 was allotted to the Eastern Districts and Rs. 2,31,168 to the Western Districts of Bengal. By the help of this grant improvements were effected during the year in the buildings and equipment of Primary and *Guru*-training schools. Provision was also made for the construction of 589 Board schools in Eastern Bengal and for 100 Upper Primary and 300 Lower Primary school buildings of a cheaper type in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. One hundred and fifty-eight schools in these two Divisions, which were provided with buildings out of a previous Imperial grant, were also converted into Board schools.

Secondary Education.

578. Middle Vernacular schools continued to decline; there are now only 473 schools so classed, and even these are reported to be weak and inefficient. The popular view of the matter is that a Middle English school serves all the purposes of a Middle Vernacular school, and also gives opportunities for the study of English. Hence Vernacular schools are rapidly being transformed into English schools. Middle English schools increased by 82, and High schools by 30. The condition of the latter was not altogether satisfactory. Aided schools were hampered by lack of funds in spite of the grants allotted to them. Government schools were less handicapped, but were far from perfect. During the year the Government of India sanctioned a recurring assignment of Rs. 1,50,000 for improving secondary schools. Since no general scheme could be formulated within the year, the first year's grant was devoted to non-recurring expenditure on school buildings and equipment.

Collegiate Education.

579. The number of students in the 34 arts colleges in the Presidency increased by 1,916. The new science laboratories at the Presidency College were opened by His Excellency the Governor on January 20th, 1913. The construction of a hostel for Muhammadan students was sanctioned at the Hooghly College. The construction of a hostel for the Krishnagar College at a cost of Rs. 38,000 was sanctioned; and the local contribution of Rs. 27,000 out of Rs. 40,000 originally required was merged in the general funds of the college. A grant of Rs. 30,000 was sanctioned by Government and a like sum was promised by the Raja of Dighapatia for Hindu hostels at Rajshahi. At

Chittagong College a hostel is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 34,000. The total expenditure on Government colleges was Rs. 7,99,144 against Rs. 6,53,128 in the previous year. Grants-in-aid to the amount of Rs. 87,902 were given to private colleges. For the assistance of these a total of Rs. 1,29,000 from Imperial Revenues is now available.

Sanskrit Education.

580. A convocation for the purpose of conferring Sanskrit titles was held at the Sanskrit College for the first time and was presided over by His Excellency Lord Carmichael.

University Examinations.

581. Out of 6,802 candidates for the Matriculation examination, 4,977 passed—an increase of 409 and 846 on the figures of the previous year. The percentage of passes (73·1) is thus higher even than the unusual figure (70·6) of 1910-11. The number of M.A. and M.Sc. graduates was 165 and 35, respectively, as compared with 153 and 56 in the previous year. In the I.A. examination 1,686 passed out of 3,386 candidates, in the I.Sc. examination 653 out of 948, in the B.A. examination 1,010 out of 1,627 and in the B. Sc. examination 252 out of 383.

Education of Indian girls and women.

582. During the year a committee was constituted for the whole Presidency to advise Government on matters connected with the education of women and girls. A similar committee formerly existed in Eastern Bengal and Assam and proved a decided success. The deliberations of the committee dealt with every aspect of female education in India. The problem of the training of teachers was specially considered, and it was recommended that a general training college for women teachers should be established in Calcutta. In spite of the lack of trained women teachers the girls' high schools did creditable work during the year. Those managed by Missions maintained a high standard, being staffed with trained teachers and superintended by European graduates. The 47 model Primary schools, though hampered by the lack of teachers and by unsuitable buildings, made good progress. The dearth of teachers was especially noticeable in the District Board and Municipal schools for girls ; in many of these the teachers belong to boys' schools and devote merely their spare time to the instruction of the girls. It is reported that a growing desire is apparent among Muhammadans for the extension of female education. Forty-eight candidates, as against 30 in 1911-12, appeared in the Matriculation, and 25 passed. From the Imperial grant for education, a recurring allotment of Rs. 1,07,000 was made for the education of girls and women. During the year the grant was devoted to non-recurring expenditure. A scheme for its distribution in future was submitted to Government at the close of the year, but the further grant of Rs. 1,07,000 necessitated its revision.

Education of Europeans.

583. During the year the Government of India sanctioned recurring allotments of Rs. 50,000 for increasing the number of free pupils or reducing fees in the elementary classes, and Rs. 40,000 for the education of the poorer classes of the domiciled community in Calcutta. The first year's allotment was spent on non-recurring objects, pending the preparation of suitable schemes for the utilisation of these grants. A further sum of Rs. 11,000 was devoted to capital expenditure on European schools out of the supplementary grant of Rs. 25,000 sanctioned by the Government of India in November 1912. Of the 76 schools in Bengal, 11 are graded as higher secondary (1 temporarily), 11 as secondary (2 provisionally), 13 provisionally as higher elementary, and 20 as elementary. The 5 Eastern Bengal schools have not yet been graded. The system of examinations now in force is thought to need careful revision, as being in some ways prejudicial to real education. In this connection the division of secondary schools into higher secondary and secondary is criticized, in that schools teaching up to the standard of the junior Local examination cannot be regarded as truly secondary. Manual training is given in 9 schools : its more general introduction is hampered by the dearth of competent teachers. For the consideration of this question a committee was formed and drew up a scheme providing for the instruction of teachers at the Goethal's Memorial Orphanage, Kurseong.

Education of Muhammadans.

584. In Eastern Bengal *maktabs* which conform to departmental regulations are treated as Primary schools ; they received aid accordingly to the amount of Rs. 30,862. They numbered 1,650 and had 56,684 pupils. In Western Bengal recognised *maktabs* have been classed as "Special schools—

Miscellaneous" since the introduction of Sir A. Earle's scheme. They numbered 2,191 with 63,176 pupils. The grants-in-aid given to these institutions were found to be inadequate, and the question of increasing them is under consideration. Muhammadan pupils in institutions of all kinds for the education of Indians numbered 731,490, or 42·8 per cent. of the total number of pupils under instruction in such institutions. There was a slight decrease in the number of Muhammadan pupils in Primary boys' schools, and an increase in colleges, secondary schools, girls' schools and miscellaneous schools. But only in the Primary schools is the number of Muhammadan pupils at all proportionate to the total number of Muhammadans in Bengal. In the higher stages the number of Muhammadans compared with Hindus is small, and the majority of those in High schools and similar institutions are in the lower classes. One Muhammadan passed the M.Sc. examination. The numbers of Muhammadans successful in the M.A., B.A., Intermediate and Matriculation examinations were 10, 68, 112 and 503 against 10, 36, 106 and 261 in the previous year.

Training of teachers.

585. For the B.T. degree there were 47 candidates, of whom 44 passed; of the 16 candidates for the L.T. 10 were successful. Of the two colleges maintained by Government, the David Hare Training College, with 25 students, cost Rs. 32,332, and the Dacca College, with 47 students, cost Rs. 56,982. At the Dacca College the deputation allowance of Government officers under training was raised from three-quarters of the salary to an amount equivalent to their full salaries, and the allowance to aided or Board school teachers was raised from one-quarter to three-quarters of their pay for those whose pay did not exceed Rs. 50. A Nature Study class was conducted for vernacular teachers for the improved *guru* schools. The aided college at Bhawanipur was given a contribution of Rs. 1,620 for stipends to the students in training. Of the Training schools for vernacular teachers five were wholly maintained and one was aided by Government. The expenditure on these schools amounted to Rs. 80,736 which included Rs. 75,516 debited to Provincial Revenues. The three first grade schools in Western Bengal were much improved by the adoption of the recommendations of the special committee in 1912; but the outturn of the Normal schools in Eastern Bengal has greatly deteriorated. It is proposed to remedy this by extending the Normal school course, by reviving the examinations for Middle schools, the pupils from which are said to be inferior, and by having none but picked and experienced teachers on the staff of the Normal schools. A sum of Rs. 1,00,000 was set apart for *guru*-training school buildings in Eastern Bengal out of the allotment made by the Government of India for popular education, and a grant of Rs. 3,900 was made for the equipment of similar schools in Eastern Bengal.

Literature and the Press.

[Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educa ional.]

Bengal Library.

586. During the year, 4,069 publications were registered, viz., 2,704 books and 1,365 periodicals. The latter represented the issues of 208 separate publications, of which 59 were English and 118 Bengali. In the preceding year there were 178 periodicals, of which 91 were in Bengali. Forty periodicals ceased to appear during the year and 70 new ones took their place.

Literary publications.

587. The chief literary event of the year was the appearance of the autobiography of the famous poet Rabindra Nath Tagore. On the whole the biographies issued were of no special literary merit, and their total number was smaller than in the previous year. Among the few new works of history some were of great interest, notably two volumes of the history of *Auranzib* by Professor Jadu Nath Sarkar and a study in Bengali of the *Gaud Inscriptions* by Babu Akshay Kumar Maitreya, one of the most active of Bengali historians. A *Literary History of Assam* from the earliest times was brought out in Assamese by Babu Debendra Nath Bejboroa. Art in its historical aspect was represented by an able work on *Orissa and Her Remains*,

Ancient and Mediæval, by Babu Mano Mohan Ganguli, Vidyaratna : among the few books on art this alone could be called good. Dramas were many, but on the whole poor ; the best of them was the *Grihalakshmi* of the late Babu Girish Chandra Ghose, whose recent death is a great loss to the Bengali stage. Works of fiction were numerous and included several novels of real excellence. Among these the *Posyaputra* of Srimati Anurupa Devi was interesting as being written by a Bengali lady. Both this novel and *Novin Sanyasi* by Mr. Prabhat Kumar Mukharji, which was held to be the best of the year, illustrate the tendency of cultivated writers to use fiction as a medium for advocating social reform. Many of the poems published during the year were above the average, notably two epics. Religious writings, though as usual very numerous, were in no way noteworthy, save that the growing popularity of standard Buddhist works was testified by the issue of several translations. The quality of the year's literature as a whole was satisfactory.

The Indian Press and the working of the Indian Press Act.

588. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, both English and vernacular, published in Bengal during the year was 346, of which 236 were published in the town of Calcutta. Forty-nine newspapers and periodicals started publication, and 38 old newspapers and periodicals ceased to exist during the year under review. Of these publications 191 were written in Bengali, 113 in English, 11 in Hindi, and the rest in Urdu, Assamese or other languages. The circulation and influence of Muhammadan newspapers continued to increase ; but Persian and Turkish affairs and the Balkan War were subjects of much bitter writing in the Muhammadan Press, the tone of which was anti-Government and anti-European. The cleavage between the Indian Press and the English papers in Calcutta became wider and more pronounced. During the year seven anonymous Bengali leaflets of the *Yugantar* type and one Bengali book were forfeited. Warnings were issued in two instances and copies of three books, two of them by Muhammadan authors, were voluntarily surrendered. In no case was it necessary to demand security. The Press Act continued to be worked with moderation.

Topics discussed in the Press.

589. Affairs in Persia and the Turko-Italian War continued to receive attention in the Indian Press, and the Balkan War, which broke out later in the year, produced a considerable amount of inflammatory writing in the Muhammadan journals. There were lengthy discussions on the Dacca University Scheme, and the question of village sanitation evoked a wider and keener interest than before. Other subjects which engaged the attention of the Press were the question of Provincial autonomy, the Calcutta Improvement Trust, the Elementary Education Bill, the Bill for the Protection of Minor Girls, Cotton Gambling and the proposed amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act.

It has been found that the statistics as to the circulations of newspapers, which were entered in the Report for 1911-12, were unreliable ; it has therefore been decided to omit such statistics in future.

Literary Societies.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-1912, PART II.
PAGES 278—279.

Arts and Sciences.

Calcutta School of Art.

590. Two hundred and seventy-three students were attending the Calcutta School of Art on the 31st March 1913. Of these four came from Bettiah, two from the Punjab, one from Madras, one from Mysore, one from Ceylon and the rest from Bengal. The total direct expenditure amounted to Rs. 22,142. Eleven candidates appeared at the final examination ; of these nine passed.

Art Gallery.

591. The Art Gallery was visited during the year by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal, the Hon'ble E. S. Montagu, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for India, Mr. K. Okakura of Japan and several other distinguished European and American visitors.

Other Schools of Art.

592. Five other Schools of Art exist in the Presidency, three at Calcutta and two at Dacca. Two of the schools at Calcutta are aided by the Calcutta Corporation; all the others are unaided. A recurring grant has been conditionally sanctioned for the School of Indian Art, Bow Bazar. The total expenditure on these schools amounted to Rs. 22,485.

Music Schools.

593. There are four music schools in the district of Bankura; two are aided by Government. The two aided schools had 38 pupils at the close of the year and the unaided schools 28.

Technical Colleges and Schools: Sibpur College.

594. On the 31st March 1913, the number of students in the Engineering Department was 97 and in the Apprentice Department 184 against 95 and 181, respectively, of the previous year. There were eight pupils in the dyeing class and 35 in the artisan classes. Only six of the pupils were Muhammadans. The total direct expenditure on the college was Rs. 2,50,123, of which Rs. 2,17,658 came from Provincial Revenues. Nearly half a lakh of rupees was also spent on equipment. At the B.E. examination 16 candidates appeared and 10 passed; at the I.E. examination 24 competed, and 11 were successful. The mechanical and electrical branch of the Apprentice course was opened in April 1912 with eight students, four of whom were Europeans. The average attendance during the year rose to 20. There were 10 students in the mining class; of these four were successful at the Diploma examination. The special mining scholarships for men employed in mines were discontinued, as the results were not considered commensurate with the expenditure involved.

Mining instruction in mining districts.

595. On the reconstitution of the provinces, the two mining lecture centres at Sijua and Jherria were transferred to Bihar, but their supervision remains in the hands of the Mining Educational Advisory Board. Courses of lectures were given at Charanpur and Deshergarh during the year, and a third centre for Bengal was opened at Raniganj. Out of 74 students eligible for the Sessional Examination from four centres, only 25 actually appeared, and 16 passed.

Dacca School of Engineering.

596. The Dacca School of Engineering had on its rolls 269 pupils on the 31st March 1913 against 287 on the corresponding date of 1912. The cost of the up-keep of the school was Rs. 81,956, of which Rs. 71,161 came from Provincial Revenues. Much improvement was reported to have been made during the year in the workshop and chemical laboratory. Forty candidates appeared at the Overseer examination and 32 were successful.

Pleaders' Survey Examination.

597. Classes for training pleaders in surveying were held at Sibpur with 15 students, at Bankipore with seven, and at Dacca with eight. At the second examination under the new rule nine out of 41 candidates passed.

Proposed Technological Institute for Calcutta.

598. The question of opening a technological institute at Calcutta was further discussed and elaborated, and the Committee appointed to consider the question recommended that the Institute should comprise departments for Engineering, Textiles, Chemistry, Printing, Commerce and Women's subjects, and that it should be housed in the Imperial Secretariat Buildings.

Other Technical Schools.

599. The technical schools in the mufassal teach up to the Sub-Overseer standard. The number of applicants for admission to these Sub-Overseer classes has seriously fallen off at most schools owing, probably, to the fact that more candidates now pass the Matriculation examination of the University of Calcutta. The provincialisation of the Rangpur Technical School was carried out in the year under review.

Joint Technical Examination Board.

600. At the Overseer examination of 1913, 78 candidates passed out of 105 and at the Sub-Overseer examination 133 passed out of 237.

"B" and "C" class Examinations.

601. From Bengal schools 56 candidates sat for the "B" class Final examination, and 37 were successful. The "C" classes were finally abolished at the end of the year.

Serampore Weaving Institute.

602. The Serampore Weaving Institute is gradually growing in popularity. Out of 100 applicants for admission only 25 could be selected. On the 31st March 1913 there were 71 students in all, 27 in the higher class and 44 in the artisan class. Nearly all the *ex*-students of the higher class have secured employment or opened factories. The cost of the up-keep of the Institute amounted to Rs. 21,499 for the year.

City and Guilds of London Technological Examinations.

603. The examinations in April and May 1912 were held locally at two centres, Serampore for textile subjects (44 candidates) and, Calcutta for the others (25 candidates). Many enquiries are received about these examinations, and their popularity is increasing.

Subordinate Outlying Weaving schools.

604. The Bankura Weaving School had 20 pupils on its rolls against 17 of the previous year. The total expenditure incurred by Government was Rs. 1,368. One additional weaving school was opened during the year at Cox's Bazar in the Chittagong Division for the Mugh community.

Government Commercial Institute.

605. On the 31st March 1913 the Government Commercial Institute at Calcutta had 21 pupils in the 1st-year class and 14 in the 2nd-year class as compared with 9 and 16 in 1912. The evening classes were attended by 56 pupils. The hours of day classes, which were previously 11 A.M. to 2-45 P.M., have now been extended to 4 P.M. The Advisory Board took a great interest in the Institute. Fifteen students sat for the Final and 83 for the Special examination; of these 5 were successful in the Final and 53 in the Special. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has issued a circular recommending that the passed students of the Institute should be given preference by commercial firms in making clerical appointments.

Other commercial schools.

606. For the instruction of Indian pupils there were 10 other commercial schools in the province, six of them being in Calcutta. They are all unaided.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

Monuments and Antiquities.

607. Clarke's temple at Sahebganj, and the tombs of Nawab Kutub-ud-din and Sher Afgan at Burdwan were repaired. Jungle and vegetation were removed from two old mosques at Kalna, and three at Pandua and Trebeni. Work on the temple at Buddipur was completed and that on the mosque of Shah Safiuddin at Pandua was in progress.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-1912, PART II, PAGE 282.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

608. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 12 Chaplains of the Church of England, the Senior and the Second Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 8 clergymen of the Additional Clergy or other Societies, the Most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Brice Meuleman, S.J., and 4 Priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for 1912.—Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Appointment of Professor of Physics.

609. During the year a whole-time Professor of Physics and an Assistant Professor of Physics and Chemistry were appointed to the Medical College, Calcutta. The Chemical Examiner had still to deliver lectures on Chemistry, but was otherwise free to devote his whole time to analytical work.

Total of cases.

610. The opening of the Customs and Excise Laboratory at Calcutta, and the transfer of the work of analysing water to the laboratory of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, combined to decrease the cases sent for examination to the Chemical Examiner. The cases examined in 1912 numbered 6,226.

Analyses.

611. In the General Analytical Department the number of cases examined fell from 4,198 to 2,459. A large number came from the Presidency Magistrates of Calcutta, most of them relating to cocaine ; 1,661 samples of cocaine were examined against 2,138 in the previous year.

Medico-legal cases.

612. The articles examined in connection with medico-legal cases also decreased from 4,010 in 1911 to 3,767 for the year under report. These figures include the examination of 85 samples of salt solution used to preserve human and animal viscera, etc., none of which were found to contain poison. Human viscera were examined for poison in 773 cases, as compared with 833 in 1911. As usual opium was the poison detected most frequently (in 227·833 cases). The viscera of 237 horned cattle were examined, as com ared with 291 in the previous year ; and poison was detected in 59·07 per cent. against 47·42 per cent. in 1911.

Veterinary Department.

[Report of the Veterinary College and the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, for the year 1912-13.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

613. At the beginning of the session 107 students were on the college rolls, but the actual number at its close was 99, of whom 58 came from Bengal, 13 from Bihar and Orissa, 8 from Assam and the rest from other provinces. Of these, 98 were allowed to take the examination and 72 passed.

In the previous year there were 33 scholarships of a uniform value of Rs. 5. In order to reward those who passed with distinction and to supply an incentive for better work, the scholarships were graded from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 and the number reduced to 24 so as to leave the total value unchanged.

College Hospital.

614. During the year 2,428 cases were treated and 1,892 operations performed. Only 245 animals were sent for treatment to the hospital in connection with the 14,932 cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Glanders and Farcy Act.

615. The stables in the area under the Act were regularly inspected by the staff of the Veterinary College. The number of cases of glanders decreased considerably; only 4 stables were affected as against 15 in 1911-12. Almost all the cattle-buyers in Calcutta and its suburbs were inspected by the glanders staff. There were 260 deaths from this disease against 182 in the previous year, and sums amounting to Rs. 282 were awarded as compensation for 7 horses destroyed under the Act. Almost all the Municipalities in the Presidency took steps to improve the sanitary condition of the hack stables.

Raymond Research Laboratory.

616. The laboratory was improved by the addition of up-to-date electrical apparatus. Excellent work was done in diagnosing contagious and obscure diseases, and a large amount of material was supplied to the Government Serologist and British Commission on foot-and-mouth disease. An important and interesting achievement was the cure, the first reported in Bengal, of a case of equine surra by a method suggested by the Imperial Bacteriologist. Eighty-four cases of suspected rabies were examined and 60 of them were found to be suffering from the disease. Five officers of the Veterinary Department, including one from Bihar, were trained in special advanced branches of Veterinary Science.

Civil Veterinary Department.

617. The reported deaths of equines and bovines from contagious disease numbered 373 and 7,637, respectively, against 248 and 8,522 of the previous year. The decrease in the mortality of bovines is attributed to less actual disease and also to better reporting on the part of police officers, whereby the prompt and effective attendance of Veterinary Assistants was secured. Improvements in the system of reporting outbreaks of cattle diseases are still under the consideration of Government. By far the largest number of deaths from bovine contagious diseases was caused by rinderpest; but the mortality would have been far more serious if preventive inoculation had not been employed.

Dispensaries.

618. The number of patients treated increased by 27 per cent., from 17,289 to 22,106. Of these rather less than one-fourth were in-patients.

Breeding of cattle.

619. Little progress was again made in improving the breed of cattle. Conditions are generally unfavourable to this work in Bengal but good results are anticipated from the establishment of a special farm which is being started at Rangpur for experiments in dairy and breeding work.

Strength of the staff.

620. There were 5 Inspectors and 62 Veterinary Assistants under the control of the Superintendent. The question of co-ordinating the pay and allowances of Veterinary Assistants in Western and Eastern Bengal was still under the consideration of Government.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for 1912-13.]

Buildings.

621. The most important works carried out during the year 1912-13 were the construction of the Rodent House and the remodelling of the Murshidabad House. The old Rodent House was utilized as a refreshment hall and the former refreshment pavilion was converted into an Insect House.

Finance and Statistics.

622. The financial condition of the garden continued to be satisfactory. The receipts from visitors amounted to Rs. 50,499, an increase of Rs. 2,003 on those of the previous year. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 93,975 and the total expenditure to Rs. 84,079, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 9,896. The visitors numbered 656,402, or 27,251 more than in the previous year.

The numbers of mammals, birds and reptiles in the garden at the close of the year were 341, 1,188 and 150, respectively, as against 654, 1,612 and 127 in the preceding year. The apparent decrease in the first two classes is due to the exclusion of rabbits, guinea pigs, common rats, etc., from the list. The garden was, as usual, free to the public one day in each month and 62,222 persons availed themselves of this concession.

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THE PRESIDENCY
OF
BENGAL
Scale 1 Inch = 32 Miles, or 1:2,027,520.
NOTE.—The longitudes are referrible to the Greenwich meridian.
1912-13
TIBET
BHUTAN
NEPAL
SIKKIM
DARJEELING
GANGTOK
KALIMPONG
COOCH BEHAR
RANGPUR
DINAJPUR
MALDA
BANKURA
BURDWAN
HOOGHLY
HOWRAH
MIDNAPORE
JESSORE
KHASI HILLS
GARO HILLS
ORISSA
SONTHAL PARGANAS
PURNEA
MANBHUM
HILL TIPPERA
LUSHAI HILLS

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